

JPRS-TEP-94-002  
13 January 1994



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# ***JPRS Report***

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# **Epidemiology**

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# Epidemiology

JPRS-TEP-94-002

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13 January 1994

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## REGIONAL AFFAIRS

### Roundup of Disease Reports for 18-27 Nov

AB2811175593

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of disease reports monitored in the FBIS Abidjan Bureau and EAU coverage areas. Source information is given in parentheses after each item.

#### Burkina Faso

At a national blood transfusion seminar which ended yesterday in Ouagadougou, Jean Gabriel Ouango, the permanent secretary of the National AIDS Control Committee, discussed the current national AIDS situation. Ouango stated that between 7 and 8 percent of the population is seropositive, representing about 450,000 persons. He said that in Ouagadougou alone there are about 5,000 persons testing seropositive, and added that very soon an anonymous AIDS screening center would become operational. (Ouagadougou Radiodiffusion Nationale du Burkina Faso in French 1300 GMT 25 Nov 93)

#### Ghana

The minister of health, Commodore Obimpeh, announced that 422 cases of Buruli Ulcer Disease has been reported from five regions in the country. This was disclosed to parliament on 24 November while he was briefing the house on the spread of the disease. He stated that, although the causative agent of the disease is known, the exact mode of transmission is not known. He said that disease tracking efforts would be intensified to minimize the number of cases. (Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 0600 GMT 25 Nov 93)

#### Nigeria

The UNICEF representative in Nigeria, Mr. (Kulio Waki), declared that Nigerian salt is sufficiently iodized. He made this remark in Abuja at the opening session of a two-day workshop on the eradication of iodine deficiency disorder. However, Mr. (Waki) said that Oyo, Ondo, Edo, Enugu, Benue, Cross River, and Plateau states were still risking iodine deficiency. He urged health workers and coordinators in the program in those states to carry out the distribution of iodine capsules effectively, so as to eliminate the dangers the disease poses to the population. The Abuja workshop is aimed at eradicating mental and physical deformities, as well as disabilities that affect human beings due to a lack of iodine in their bodies. (Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 1500 GMT 18 Nov 93)

#### Rwanda

Jean-Baptiste Nubahumpatse reports that Burundian refugees in southern Rwanda and Bugesera still face untold suffering. Dysentery rages, while food and the infrastructures needed to meet their basic wants are

lacking. Here is his report: [Nubahumpatse] About 20 people die every day in the Burundian refugee camps. That is at least what transpires from testimonies from charitable relief organizations operating in the region such as the Belgian Red Cross and French Medecins Sans Frontieres who particularly deal with health problems. The Burundian refugees are thus hard hit by dysentery, diarrhea, measles, and other diseases. The grave overpopulation in the camps, which has caused unbearable congestion, remains the greatest handicap to the smooth running of relief operations. The UNHCR, in cooperation with the Ministry of Works and Social Affairs as well as local authorities, are currently at work to try and solve the problem. In addition, particularly due to this overpopulation in the camps, Burundian refugees rightly or wrongly complain of a lack of adequate food rations. That is the reason why some of them take risks by venturing across the border to Burundi to try and get extra food. They are welcomed by deadly bullets fired by permanently vigilant Burundian soldiers, irrefutable proof of the continuing killings deep inside Burundi. (Kigali Radiodiffusion Nationale de la Republique Rwandaise in French 0430 GMT 19 Nov 93)

#### Uganda

There has been an outbreak of dysentery in Kisoro District in which 12 people are recorded dead. Seven out of the 12 dead died at Mutolere and Kisoro Hospitals while five died at their homes. The scourge started in (Murora) sub-county and later spread to some other parts and has now covered almost half the district, the most hit areas being those along the Uganda-Rwanda border. Other affected areas include (Ruaramba), (Chihe), (Gisorora) and Muganza, being parishes which harbor the influx of refugees fleeing the war. (Kampala Radio Uganda Network in English 0400 GMT 24 Nov 93)

#### Zaire

There has been an outbreak of dysentery at Lodja lately, spreading to Lomela and other areas. About 80 deaths have been reported. The worst-hit areas include Djinga and Gombela. The government has appealed for urgent assistance from international aid agencies (Kinshasa Tele-Zaire Television Network in French 1900 GMT 23 Nov 93)

### Roundup of Disease Reports for 30 Nov-3 Dec

AB0712175093

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of disease reports monitored from FBIS Abidjan Bureau and EAU coverage areas. Source information is given in parentheses after each item.

#### Benin

Our country joined the international community on 1 December to observe World AIDS Day. According to the National AIDS Control Program coordinator, from

1985, when the first cases were diagnosed, to date, there have been 566 AIDS cases. In 1992, there were 218 cases; and for the first six months of this year, 101 new AIDS cases have been registered. Following a survey, the number of seropositives is estimated at 400,000. (Cotonou Office de Radiodiffusion-Télévision du Bénin Radio in French 1930 GMT 1 December 93)

### Congo

Health Minister Jean Ekoundzola issued a message in Brazzaville to mark World AIDS Day. The minister stated that an estimated 19,000 AIDS cases and 100,000 cases of HIV-infected persons have been reported in the Congo. The minister said that in Brazzaville, one out of three adult deaths was due to AIDS. He also stated that 7 percent of pregnant women have Human Immuno Deficiency Virus, which causes the disease. The minister stated that one out of three of these women would transmit the disease to their babies. (Dakar PANA in English 1143 GMT 1 Dec 93)

Schistosomiasis, a disease characterized by itching and blood in the urine, is reappearing in the Niari area. According to the head of the schistosomiasis unit, although the disease is on the decline, some cases can still be found mainly in three primary schools of the area where the incidence varies between 6 and 7 percent—based on a survey conducted in 1991. Due to disturbances in the country, figures for the 1992-1993 period are not yet available. In Kiniati, out of a population of 365 inhabitants, the incidence was about 65 percent in 1991. In 1992, this figure had decreased: Out of 225 people examined, 52 cases were diagnosed. (Brazzaville Radio Nationale Congolaise Network in French 1830 GMT 4 December 93)

### Cote D'Ivoire

The coordinator of the National AIDS Control Program, who was invited to the studio on 1 December on the occasion of the World AIDS Day, revealed that the incidence of AIDS in the country today is estimated at 10 percent of the population. This does not, however, mean that one Ivorian out of 10 is seropositive. For the sexually active adult population aged between 15 to 49 years old, the incidence is around 9.8 percent. The coordinator also said that the AIDS education campaign in the country is making some progress because now 10 percent of the population aged between 15 to 49 years old say that they regularly use condoms during casual sexual encounters. In 1988 this figure was around 2 percent. In addition, more than 80 to 90 percent of ceremonies involving or held by the youth carry messages on AIDS. Local, departmental, and regional committees on AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, as well as national nongovernmental organizations, have been established throughout the country. (Abidjan La Chaîne Une Television Network in French 2000 GMT 1 December 93)

### Ghana

The Ashanti Region now tops the list of AIDS cases in the country. A total of 3,515 cases of the disease were recorded between 1989 and 1993. This figure represents 31.8 percent of the total of 11,044 cases recorded throughout the country. The district pharmacist in charge of Kwabre, Mr. Kofi Baye, announced this when he launched the district AIDS Awareness Day at Nkosu. Mr. Baye said that as part of measures to check the menace, health authorities in the district have trained 30 people to mount educational programs to complement efforts of health personnel. The Kwabre district secretary called on churches, youth associations, and unit committees to help fight the AIDS menace in the district, which now has a record 27 cases. (Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 2000 GMT 30 November 93)

### Niger

Niger joined the rest of the international community to observe the Sixth World AIDS Day on 1 December. As of 30 November, there were 992 declared AIDS cases in the country. According to the national director of the Niger AIDS Control Program, for the first six months of this year, 183 cases were recorded. A look at figures for previous years shows that full-blown AIDS cases have increased, which also implies an increase in the number of seropositives. The most affected target-population is prostitutes and truck drivers. Among prostitutes in Niamey, the infection rate rose from less than 9 percent last year to 15.30 percent this year. For truck drivers, the rate is 3 percent. (Niamey Voix du Sahel Network in French 1200 GMT 1 December 93)

### Nigeria

Nigeria joined the world community on 1 December to celebrate World AIDS Day. The director general of the Ministry of Health and Human Services, addressing newsmen in Lagos, disclosed that the number of people who have tested HIV-positive in the country stands at about 50,000 to 100,000. As of November this year, there were 952 AIDS cases out of which 100 patients have died. (Lagos Voice of Nigeria in English 1030 GMT 2 December 93)

It was reported in Makurdi by the Benue director general in charge of health and human services, Moses Ugye, that a total of 644 of about 6,600 blood samples from donors screened at the general hospital in Makurdi between August 1989 and October of 1993 were found to test positive for Human Immuno Deficiency Virus (HIV), which causes AIDS. The director general stated that 44 of these samples were confirmed to be full-blown cases of AIDS.

The medical superintendent at Makurdi General Hospital, Dr. Sylvester Ogiri, disclosed that 15 AIDS patients were admitted and later discharged at the hospital this year at their own request. Dr. Ogiri said that before their voluntary departure, the AIDS victims were

given proper counselling in a bid to discourage them from spreading the disease. (Dakar PANA in English 1651 GMT 3 Dec 93)

In Benue State, out of the 6,550 blood samples screened for the AIDS virus, 644 tested positive. The director general in charge of the Ministry of Health, who disclosed this, also confirmed that 44 of the blood samples carried the AIDS virus. The medical superintendent of the Makurdi General Hospital revealed that the hospital had admitted 15 AIDS patients this year. (Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 1500 GMT 3 December 93)

#### Zaire

Zaire joined the international community on 1 December to observe World AIDS Day. With a little more than 21,000 AIDS cases recorded to date and close to 2 million seropositives, Zaire is one of the worst hit countries in the world—accounting for 3 percent of total world AIDS cases. The suspension of cooperation between Zaire and its leading foreign partners has had serious effects on the spread of the disease in the country. In order to prevent the disaster that could result from the blocking of external resources, the National AIDS Control Program has decided to set up a special AIDS fund. (Kinshasa Voix du Zaire in French 1800 GMT 1 December 93)

#### Epidemiological Reports for 15-21 Nov

MB2111162293

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports monitored by FBIS Mbabane Bureau from 15 to 21 November concerning outbreaks of and reports on various diseases. Items are listed by country and disease. Source follows each item.

#### Botswana

HIV—"The permanent secretary to the president, Mr. Elijah Legwaila, says the recent research by the AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases Unit of the Ministry of Health estimates about 92,000 people as being infected with HIV in Botswana." (Gaborone Radio Botswana Network in English 1610 GMT 15 Nov 93)

#### Lesotho

AIDS—"The AIDS program manager in the Ministry of Health says there are 297 cases of AIDS in Lesotho. She, however, said this number does not reflect the exact figure of people with AIDS infection because many victims have not been medically examined." (Maseru Radio Lesotho in Eng 1130 GMT 17 Nov 93)

#### Mozambique

HIV—"Sofala Province reported 80 HIV cases between 1986 and March 1993. Dr. Inacio Barreto, provincial supervisor for AIDS, says the figure could be inaccurate due insufficient means of monitoring the spread of the

virus." (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1400 GMT 17 Nov 93)

#### Namibia

Polio—The Ministry of Health and Social Service on 12 November announced that "a polio epidemic had broken out in Namibia, following eleven cases of Polio Myelitis reported to the Katutura Hospital." The 11 victims are children from 2 to 4 years of age. They come from the Windhoek suburbs of Okuryangava, Wana-heda, Katutura, and Hochland Park, and from as far away as Keetmanshoop, Bethanie, Mariental, and Kalkrand. Five cases have been confirmed as having been caused by Polio type 1 wild strain virus," which "descended from the West African Polio virus strain" and was responsible for a polio outbreak in Namibia in 1988.

#### South Africa

Anthrax—At least 150 buck and 60 hippos have died of anthrax in the Kruger National Park in the past two months. The disease broke out in the Orpen Gate area and spread north and eastward. (Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network English 1100 GMT 16 Nov 93)

Typhoid—"At least four patients suffering from typhoid have been admitted to the Rietfontein Hospital" near Johannesburg, and there are unconfirmed reports of 10 cases of typhoid in Delmas Hospital, about 50 km east of Johannesburg. (Johannesburg SAPA in English 0658 GMT 19 Nov 93)

#### Zimbabwe

Dysentery—Health Minister Timothy Stamps said that there had been an outbreak of a "usually mild and short-lived" form of dysentery in Mutare and Mashonaland East and Central. He also warned of "a fatal and mysterious disease, entero-haemorrhagic E.coli," which had been reported in Masvingo and Manicaland South. He did not say how many cases of either disease had been reported. (Harare THE HERALD in English 8 Nov 93 p 3)

AIDS—Conservative estimates say the number of children orphaned by AIDS in Zimbabwe will reach 600,000 within the next 6 years, a senior government official revealed at the start of a conference on AIDS orphans on Wednesday. (Johannesburg SAPA in English 1847 GMT 18 Nov 93)

#### Epidemiological Reports Monitored 22-28 Nov

MB2811182693

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports monitored by FBIS Mbabane Bureau from 22 to 28 November concerning outbreaks of and reports on various diseases. Items are listed by country and disease. Source follows each item.



**Angola**

**AIDS**—More than 600 AIDS cases have been reported in Angola since 1985. Deputy Health Minister Francisco Mendes has revealed that the people most affected by the disease of the century are between 20 and 30 years old. (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 27 Nov 93)

**Mozambique**

**Tropical Neuropathy**—"More than 300 cases of tropical neuropathy were recently reported in Mongincual District, Nampula Province." (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 27 Nov 93)

**NAMIBIA**

**Polio**—A minor outbreak of polio has occurred in Namibia with eight confirmed cases of the disease, currently restricted to the southern half of the country, the South African National Health Department said on 24 November. It said South Africans travelling to Namibia were advised to ensure polio immunisation of children under five years was up to date. The Namibian Health Ministry had launched a mass immunisation campaign to halt the spread of polio, an infectious viral disease which can result in paralysis of groups of muscles. The last polio epidemic in South Africa occurred in 1988 in Natal/kwaZulu, with the last case reported in 1990. (Johannesburg SAPA in English 1410 GMT 24 Nov 93)

**South Africa**

**Typhoid**—An outbreak of typhoid fever has caused a health scare in the Botileng township outside Delmas. Since Friday, nearly 500 people with symptoms of the deadly disease have been treated. Although it is still not known whether all the cases are typhoid-related, 21 patients have been tested positive for the disease. All the people treated have shown tell-tale symptoms of the disease, which include severe headaches, stomach cramps, vomiting, and dehydration. The Delmas town council was unable to treat the large number of patients in local hospitals, so the South African Defense Force was called in. A make-shift hospital was equipped in an old hangar near the township. Between 300 and 350 people have since been transferred to hospitals in the Pretoria, Witwatersrand, Vereeniging area, some as far afield as Hillbrow. No deaths related to the disease have been confirmed. (Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 1600 GMT 22 Nov 93)

**Further on Typhoid**—The toll in the Delmas typhoid epidemic has risen to six, while 307 people are still being treated in hospital, the Transvaal Provincial Administration said on Friday. A sixth person died of the disease on Thursday night. One of the new admissions to the Far East Rand Hospital was a white angler from Springs, who had been fishing in the Delmas area, the statement said. The source of infection was still not known. The statement stressed that all people visiting the Delmas district were entering a "high risk area" and

that it was important to take sufficient precautionary measures. A total of 177 patients were still being treated in provincial hospitals, 123 in the field hospital, four in the Heidelberg hospital and three in the Boksburg-Benoni hospital. A joint epidemiological survey by the Universities of Pretoria and the Witwatersrand commenced on Thursday. (Johannesburg SAPA in English 1404 GMT 26 Nov 93)

**Swaziland**

**HIV**—The Ministry of Health has disclosed 31,900 people have the AIDS virus (HIV). This year 319 are reported to be already suffering from AIDS. As of March 1993 there were 261 full blown cases. From then to June, 24 more cases were reported bringing the figure to 285. From June to September the figure surged by 34 cases bringing the total figure to 319. Most cases recorded fall between the ages 15-49. (Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 23 Nov 93 pp 1, 32)

**Epidemiological Reports Monitored 29 Nov-5 Dec**

MB0512200393

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports monitored by FBIS Mbabane Bureau from 29 November to 5 December concerning outbreaks of and reports on various diseases. Items are listed by country and disease. Source follows each item.

**Mozambique**

**AIDS**—"According to information made available by the Health Ministry, at least 826 AIDS cases have been detected in the country between 1986 and June of this year. The city of Maputo is the one with most AIDS cases—284. A total of 116 cases have been recorded in Manica Province; 113, in Sofala Province; and 101, in Tete Province. (Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 22 Nov 93 p 1) NAMIBIA

**AIDS**—"According to the deputy minister of Health and Social Services, Dr. Iyambo Indongo, there are already 5,000 confirmed AIDS cases in Namibia. Approximately 60 percent of those people belong to the most productive age group, people between the ages of 15-34." Windhoek DIE REPUBLIKEIN in Afrikaans 1 Dec 93 p 2)

**South Africa**

**AIDS**—"An average of three women who give birth daily at Soweto's Baragwanath Hospital and about 20,000 to 30,000 women in Soweto are said to be HIV positive. This has been revealed in a statement released to coincide with World AIDS Day. An obstetrician at the hospital, Dr. James McIntyre, said about 30 percent of babies born to HIV positive mothers would be infected with the virus that causes AIDS. Dr. McIntyre said South Africa was following the same AIDS curve as the rest of Africa, because there had not been any change in behavior." (Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1100 GMT 1 Dec 93)

**Typhoid**—At least 11 people have died since typhoid broke out in Delmas on the far East Rand about two weeks ago,...the Transvaal Provincial Administration said in a statement on Thursday. A total of 222 people were being treated for typhoid, 125 of them at a field hospital and 97 in provincial hospitals. (Johannesburg SAPA in English 1326 GMT 2 Dec 93)

**Epidemiological Reports Monitored 6-12 Dec**  
*MB1212181693*

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports monitored by FBIS Mbabane Bureau from 6 to 12 December concerning outbreaks of and reports on various diseases. Items are listed by country and disease. Source follows each item.

**Angola**

**Diarrhea**—"Diarrhea is killing people in Cubal, Benguela Province, with the village of Cassiva being the most affected by the disease." (Luanda TPA Television in Portuguese 1930 GMT 11 Dec 93) **MOZAMBIQUE**

**AIDS**—"In Zambezia Province 43 AIDS cases have been reported, 39 in the capital of the province.....War-displaced people and soldiers are the groups most affected by the AIDS virus." (Maputo Radio Mozambique Portuguese 1730 GMT 8 Dec 93)

**AIDS**—"A total of 27 AIDS cases had been diagnosed in Cabo Delgado Province up until June,...mostly in people between the ages of 20 and 45." (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0500 GMT 10 Dec 93)

**Cholera**—"Cholera has killed 36 people in Cabo Delgado Province's Chiuta District since October. Official data obtained by the NOTICIAS newspaper from a local health source indicates that the epidemic has already affected 3,000 people in that area....The epidemic has struck seven villages in the Chiure Velho administrative area." [Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0800 GMT 11 Dec 93]

**South Africa**

**Malaria**—"The number of reported malaria cases has reached the highest level in six years with 10,033 notifications this year, the Department of National Health said on Thursday. The increase could be ascribed to the higher rainfall after the drought, a statement said. There was also an increase in the number of visitors being exposed to malaria-carrying mosquitoes while visiting neighbouring countries. They ran a higher risk of contracting malaria which was resistant to prophylactic medicines." (Johannesburg SAPA in English 1843 GMT 8 Dec 93)

**Typhoid**—About 10 patients suffering from typhoid have been admitted to the Jubilee Hospital at Temba, Bophuthatswana, since November 20, according to the hospital superintendent. (Johannesburg SATURDAY STAR in English 11 Dec 92 p 4)

**Epidemiological Reports Monitored 13-19 Dec**  
*MB1912174493*

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports monitored by FBIS Mbabane Bureau from 13 to 19 December concerning outbreaks of and reports on various diseases. Items are listed by country and disease. Source follows each item.

**Mozambique**

**Cholera, Diarrhea**—Cholera and diarrhea have killed 12 people in Cabo Delgado Province's Ancuabe District. This was recently disclosed by the local health director. (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 14 Dec 93)

**Cholera**—At least 30 people have died of cholera in Cabo Delgado Province's Ancuabe District. Radio Mozambique's Pemba correspondent reports that five centers for treating cholera patients have been assembled in the area. The source says that a ward to treat the disease has been opened in the Pemba Provincial Hospital to prevent deaths due to the disease. (Maputo Radio Mozambique in Portuguese 0600 GMT 19 Dec 93)

**South Africa**

**Malaria**—22 deaths from malaria have been reported so far this year compared to 13 last year. Altogether 10,033 malaria cases have been reported to the Department of National Health and Population Development up to 2 November this year. Last year 2,854 cases were reported. Most cases were recorded in KwaZulu, 3,746, while 2,575 cases were recorded in the eastern Transvaal. There were also a high number of malaria cases in Gazankulu, 714; Kangwane, 665; and central Transvaal, 569, according to the National Health Department's publication Epidemiological Comments. Of the total 10,033 cases this year, 9,094 blacks were affected, 721 whites, nine colored, and eight Indians. The population groups of the other 201 cases are unknown. Concerning the age groups, most cases, 6,733, occurred in the 15-year age group and older. In the 5-14 age group 2,279 cases were reported, with 843 cases in the 1-4 year age group. (Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans 7 Dec 93 p 11)

**AIDS**—Aids is believed to have killed more people in South Africa this year than in the seven years since the first cases of the virus were identified in this country. The figure of 4,937 AIDS-related deaths is based on data from clinics throughout the country. Those who already have full-blown AIDS and are already terminally ill are estimated at 4,902. This excludes those who are in the early stages of showing symptoms or have been diagnosed HIV positive. (Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 19 Dec 93 p 17)

## SOMALIA

**Doctor Attacks UN Operation in Somalia***94WE0081C Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 23 Oct 93 p 9*

[Article by Carina Beckerman]

[Text] "What amazed me in Somalia was the UN tactics. It was so hopeless, it didn't lead anywhere. At an earlier stage, even before the summer, the UN should have learned from what had happened and tried to change the course of events, either by reaching a political settlement with the clan leader, Aidid, or by increasing military presence in order to clean up Mogadishu."

This was the opinion expressed by the physician, Johan Dalen, 44, who recently returned to Sweden after having worked for a few weeks at the Swedish field hospital in Somalia.

"My strongest impression from Somalia, and the one it is the hardest to forget, is of the injured children; children who had been shot in the head, or who had had both legs amputated. As a surgeon, one wants to perform surgery, and that one really gets to do in Somalia," said Dalen quietly.

**Curfew**

Johan Dalen has previously worked in Cyprus, Lebanon, and Cambodia, through the UN and the Red Cross.

"In Somalia I have seen how much can be done with limited resources," he said.

There is still unrest in the capital, Mogadishu, but in rural areas, the famine is, in essence, eliminated. Food supply and the purely military aspects of the operation do work. But in Mogadishu, where gangs of thugs roam the streets at night, the curfew is still in effect after 1800.

The hospital, which employs 150 Swedes, is located in the same area as the old university and the U.S. Embassy. The Swedes are taking care of 20,000 UN soldiers.

In the immediate vicinity of the hospital, 5,000 U.S. soldiers are stationed, and consequently the area is often subject to grenade attacks.

"No, I was not afraid. When one lives in the middle of a conflict, it becomes part of everyday life, and as we were not the primary target for the grenades, it was not that dangerous," said Dalen.

**Strict Orders**

The people working at the field hospital have received strict orders not to leave the area without taking precautions. The hospital staff members wear helmets, submachine guns, and bulletproof vests, and travel to and from the airport in armed convoys. The vehicles are equipped with Swedish and Red Cross flags to indicate that they

are not Americans. And to protect themselves against shrapnel, most people stay inside as much as possible. Even women receive training at UN courses in the use of weapons.

**Liberals Oppose Withdrawing Hospital From Somalia***94WE0096A Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 13 Nov 93 p 4*

[Unattributed article: "Disagreement About Field Hospital in Somalia"]

[Text] A battle seems to be brewing within the administration regarding the UN's request for the Swedish field hospital to stay in the Somali capital of Mogadishu. Foreign Aid Minister Alf Svensson (Christian Democratic Coalition) tells TT [Press Wire Service] that the decision to bring it home at the end of the year remains in effect. Defense Minister Anders Björck also wants to bring the field hospital home.

"If the decision is no, we will protest," says Lars Leijonborg of the Liberal Party.

"This is a matter that must be coordinated; it is not appropriate for Svensson himself to send a no to New York," in Leijonborg's opinion. He adds that the matter has not arrived at the cabinet's coordination office.

He says that he has the full support of the Liberal Party, including the cabinet members, in demanding that the Swedish equipment and, preferably, the personnel as well should remain.

According to the foreign aid minister, the decision to bring the field hospital home is firm.

"If some party brings up the matter in the government we will have a reason to reexamine this. But so far Leijonborg has only asked a question and Bengt Westerberg (Liberal leader and social affairs minister) has asked for foundation material," says Svensson.

The foreign aid minister thinks that the tens of millions of kronor which the field hospital in Mogadishu costs would be put to better use by reinforcing equipment at other hospitals in the region for the same amount.

Leijonborg says that there is also another aspect to the question:

"UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali is trying to get the United States to fulfill its commitment in Somalia. So Sweden should not try to avoid it."



## SOUTH AFRICA

### SADF: AIDS Awareness Campaign in Natal

94WE0080A Cape Town WEEKEND ARGUS in English 16/17 Oct 93 p 8

[Article by Greg Knowler: "SADF Steps Up AIDS Education in Natal"]

[Text] DURBAN—The South African Defence Force [SADF] is stepping up its Aids awareness campaign among Zululand troops amid fears that the disease is rapidly spreading south from Mozambique.

In a recent screening of 600 applicants to the Kwazulu Police in Empangeni, A Durban laboratory tested 54 as HIV positive.

A doctor involved in the testing estimated that the number of people infected with the virus would increase the closer one came to the Mozambique border.

A doctor working at a clinic in Zululand said one in three of the soldiers he treated for sexually transmitted diseases was HIV positive.

"It is horrific what is really happening and the government is not prepared to discuss the problem," the doctor said.

He estimated that 8 percent of the population in the Matubatuba area, mainly those in 18 to 28 age groups, was HIV positive and this was developing into "a massive problem".

The SADF Medical Service has stepped up its Aids awareness campaign, which began in 1988.

Medical staff director of the SADF Medical Service, Ken Ingham, was reluctant to give exact figures of HIV positive cases in affected units in Zululand, but said they were not as high as those in the surrounding population.

Brigadier Ingham said soldiers had limited access to the public, usually only on weekend passes, and this was why the number of HIV soldiers was lower than in the surrounding population.

"That's because soldiers get AIDS from civilians, not from other soldiers," Brigadier Ingham said.

He said the campaign was working better in the army than in the community because "no-one can force members of the public to listen".

Northern Zululand is recognised by Aids researchers as "One of the worst areas in the country" and the HIV virus is spreading rapidly. Doctors say there is a lot of cross-border movement between South Africa and Mozambique and the virus is being brought south.

### Over 1,000 Cases of Typhoid Reported in Eastern Transvaal

MB2311120893 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
1146 GMT 23 Nov 93

[Text] Johannesburg Nov 23 SAPA—More than 1,000 suspected cases of typhoid have been reported from the Delmas area in the eastern Transvaal. And more patients are arriving continuously at an emergency field hospital in the area, while others are being transferred to hospitals in the Pretoria/Witwatersrand/Vereeniging region and Garankuwa.

So far one death has been confirmed, that of Marinda Zulu, 23, who died in the Delmas Hospital on Tuesday morning. She first felt the symptoms three days ago but went to the field hospital only on Monday. She was transferred to Delmas Hospital on Monday afternoon and died early on Tuesday. Another woman and a primary school pupil had also died, but it had not been confirmed they died of typhoid.

Brig Louis du Preez, the officer commanding the field hospital on Tuesday said: "I don't see it subsiding for at least the next week since the disease has an incubation period of seven to 14 days."

The Delmas Town Council set up the emergency hospital at the local airport by Saturday morning to deal with the influx of people from Botleng township who could not be accommodated in nearby hospitals. At least 50 SA [South African] Defence Force medical corps personnel are working around the clock treating patients at the field hospital. One of the doctors contracted the disease and was evacuated to one military hospital in Voortrekkerhoogte, Pretoria, on Monday morning.

Brig du Preez confirmed there were more than 1,000 cases of suspected typhoid, including those that had been sent to other hospitals. Nearly 150 people were admitted to the field hospital on Monday, although more than 40 were discharged by the end of the day and a further 50 on Tuesday morning, with tablets for them to continue treatment.

Brig du Preez said 21 cases of typhoid had been confirmed so far, but added that since test results took 72 hours to be determined, the figure was certain to rise dramatically. Ambulances would continue transporting people from Botleng to the nearby hospital. Loudspeakers were being used to urge all those with diarrhea to report to the hospital, Brig du Preez said.

According to Acting Town Clerk Henre de Hart, older people and children were more susceptible to the highly contagious disease, which is spread through body fluids and contaminated food.

Delmas Management Committee Chairman David Swanepoel said water had been tested weekly in the past, but was now being analysed daily.

Most cases had come from the Mandela View squatter camp on the outskirts of Botleng, although the syringe

needles stuck in a map to indicate the origin of each case, clearly showed the disease had struck the entire township.

Mr de Hart said the causes were unhealthy living conditions, which were being addressed by a R[and]6.9 million grant for the development of 2,700 new stands.

### **Fifty-Five AIDS Sufferers Discovered in Beijing Since 1985**

*HK0812142393 Hong Kong ZHONGGUO TONGXUN SHE in Chinese 1120 GMT 27 Nov 93*

[Text] Beijing, 27 Nov (ZHONGGUO TONGXUN SHE)—The Beijing epidemic prevention department revealed that 55 AIDS sufferers have been found in Beijing since 1985, ranking Beijing third among Chinese cities in terms of the number of AIDS carriers.

Of the 55 infected people, 32 are foreigners, 11 are from other cities and provinces, and 12 are local residents.

The first AIDS victim on the mainland was discovered in Beijing, as was the first Chinese AIDS victim, and the first AIDS victim among mainlanders working overseas.

According to an epidemiologist, the relevant epidemic rate in Beijing remains low.

### **Association To Control, Prevent STD, AIDS Set Up**

*OW3011130893 Beijing XINHUA in English 1032 GMT 30 Nov 93*

[Text] Beijing, November 30 (XINHUA)—China now has 1,159 reported cases of AIDS infection and the virus carriers, a health official said here today.

Of the 1,159 cases, 211 are foreigners and Overseas Chinese and 948 are Chinese. China has found 19 aids victims, 14 of whom have died.

Most of the HIV/AIDS carriers in China are drug abusers or returnees from abroad, said the official.

On the eve of "World AIDS Day", a national association of sexually transmitted disease (STD) and AIDS control and prevention was set up here.

Addressing the inaugural meeting of the association, Chen Minzhang, minister of public health, said that the association will help the government organize figures from various circles to take part in STD and AIDS prevention activities. Meanwhile, it will focus on health education, information exchange and international cooperation on STD and AIDS control.

According to Chen, the Chinese Government has always attached importance to preventing and controlling the spread of STD and AIDS. It has passed laws and regulations on prevention of AIDS and STD, which have promoted the management, research, surveillance and treatment of such diseases.

However, STD and AIDS epidemic areas are still expanding in China. "We lack publication and comprehensive management measures on STD and AIDS prevention," said Chen.

He urged government departments at all levels and communities all over the country to undertake commitments in STD and AIDS prevention and control. Meanwhile, he called for more cooperation on AIDS control among different departments in the country.

### **China To Strengthen Education on Aids Prevention**

*OW0112100993 Beijing XINHUA in English 0909 GMT 1 Dec 93*

[Excerpt] Beijing, December 1 (XINHUA)—China will further strengthen its education on AIDS prevention and control, said an official from the Ministry of Public Health.

Addressing a meeting held here today to mark "World AIDS Day", Yin Dakui, vice-minister of public health, said that publication and education on AIDS prevention must be emphasized in the country.

"It is very important for Chinese to raise their awareness of AIDS to fight against the killer disease," he said.

Chinese medical specialists attending the meeting believe that China is one of the countries least affected by AIDS. However, they said they thought that many Chinese still lack knowledge on AIDS prevention. [passage omitted]

In Asia, there are about 1 million cases of AIDS infection HIV carriers. Of the 1,159 confirmed carriers in China, 19 have shown symptoms of the disease.

### **Official Predicts 100,000 HIV Cases by 2000**

*HK0112131093 Beijing ZHONGGUO XINWEN SHE in English 1103 GMT 1 Dec 93*

[Text] Beijing, December 1 (CNS)—A projection by the central authorities indicates that by the year 2000, China will probably have a total of 100,000 AIDS-infected cases with people suffering from full-blown AIDS are put at 20,000, the Vice Minister of Public Health, Mr. Yin Dakui, said today.

China has so far been seen as having fewer cases of AIDS infection. By late last month, 22 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities had reported a total of 1,159 cases showing positive in AIDS tests while the number of full-blown AIDS cases was 19.

Mr. Yin said that the figures had come only from a sample survey of 2.3 million people and the actual number of cases with the infection was far greater than that, being estimated at 5,000 to 10,000.

Speaking at a function today for World AIDS Day, Mr. Yin said that should resolute measures to prevent AIDS not be adopted, China would become a country with a high AIDS rate by the turn of the century.

A research office under the State Council and public health departments as well as health experts joined

hands early this year to study the risk of AIDS facing the country. Experts have estimated that the fatal disease has caused economic loss of at least between RMB 540 million [renminbi] and RMB 1.3 billion while the greater loss incurred was put at between RMB 790 million and RMB 1.87 billion, dealing a serious blow to families, society and the national economy.

The Ministry of Public health and the World health Organization have recently made joint efforts in helping China in its preventative work against AIDS. Such work

undertaken next year will centre on publicity regarding AIDS prevention as well as on active measures to deal with it.

Awards have been won for a number of outstanding publicity items on AIDS. The president of an AIDS-prevention association, Mr. Qian Xinzong, said that while China still has comparatively few cases of AIDS, the authorities should lose no time in promoting education on the disease and prevent it from spreading while at the same time helping people to overcome unnecessary fears regarding AIDS.

## BURMA

### Minister Reports 5,862 HIV, 133 AIDS Cases Nationwide

BK0212102993 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese  
0630 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Excerpt] At a ceremony to commemorate World AIDS Day in Yangon [Rangoon] yesterday, Vice Admiral Than Nyunt, Minister of Health, said Myanmar [Burma] is observing the day as part of an educational program to warn the people of the dangers of AIDS.

Than Nyunt next added, "there are 5,862 people infected with the HIV virus and 133 full blown AIDS cases in Myanmar up to the end of September 1993." He explained the state government is giving priority to AIDS prevention works, and wide-scale plans have been drawn up to combat AIDS, which has been noted as the third priority health problem of the country in the work projects of the 1993-96 National Health Program. Finally, the minister noted that AIDS prevention and suppression central committee and other committees at the various state and divisional levels and township levels were also formed to effectively perform AIDS prevention and suppression activities on a wider scale.

## THAILAND

### Health Minister Warns of Increase in AIDS Cases

BK0212022793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English  
2 Dec 93 p 6

[Excerpts] Thailand will have 20,000 to 30,000 AIDS patients a year if the disease is not controlled, Public Health Minister Athit Urairat warned yesterday.

Dr Arthit said the ministry's epidemiology and AIDS divisions estimated that AIDS patients would increase from 16,250 in 1993 to 31,500 cases a year in 2000.

"We can't ignore the AIDS problem any more. It is time to collect state and private resources to control the spread of the disease," Dr Athit said.

He said the Government had a clear policy on AIDS and would do everything to prevent and control the problem. [passage omitted]

The minister vowed that the ministry would develop and expand its services to cope with the problem and would provide equal opportunities for use of public health services.

To mark World AIDS Day, the ministry yesterday organized campaigns to fight AIDS in all provinces. [passage omitted]

The country has 3,769 reported cases of AIDS and 2,727 reported AIDS-related cases (ARC), Dr. Athit said.

Chiang Rai, Bangkok, Chiang Mai Lampang and Phayao are the provinces with the highest number of reported AIDS cases.

Dr Athit said surveys conducted every six months since 1989 showed the rate of increase among individual drug users group (IVDU) was constant at 35.21 per cent, whereas that of the sex workers group had increased from 23.8 per cent to 28.67 per cent.

He said the statistics also showed an increase in pregnant women with AIDS from one per cent to 1.39 per cent. [passage omitted]



**BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA****Sarajevo Registers 56 More Infectious Hepatitis Cases***AU1312162993 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 13 Dec 93*

[Text] The hygienic and epidemiologic situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina continues to deteriorate. In Sarajevo alone, 56 new cases of infectious hepatitis have been registered in the last week. Altogether, 1,112 cases of infectious hepatitis have been registered in Sarajevo so far.

**BULGARIA****Outbreak of Syphilis Reported in Ruse***AU1312141493 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 4 Dec 93 p 1*

[Report by Mira Radkova; date not given: "Danger of Syphilis Epidemic"]

[Text] Ruse—If a few more cases are registered, the health authorities will announce a syphilis epidemic. So far, the number of cases has reached 105, which is about one-seventh of the total number of registered syphilis cases in the country. Of these, 78 persons attending the outpatients department for skin and venereal diseases are residents from the town of Ruse.

The figures show that 52 of the patients are unemployed, while 11 are women who are suspected of practicing the world's oldest profession. The patients vary in age from 11 to 80 years. Despite the fact that a regional office for combating venereal diseases was set up at the end of October with the help of the local administration, specialist doctors, and police officers, the problem continues to arouse worry and evidently requires a different approach.

**Data on Registered HIV Carriers Issued on World AIDS Day***AU0112142993 Sofia BTA in English 1351 GMT 1 Dec 93*

[Text] Sofia, December 1 (BTA)—The Sofia Inspectorate of Hygiene and Epidemiology will distribute over 2,000 condoms today, December 1, marked as World AIDS Day. The condoms will be handed out together with leaflets on AIDS hazards.

A round-table discussion on the problems of HIV carriers and their families is due to start next Tuesday. The experts will also discuss the risks to which medics are exposed.

There are 121 registered HIV carriers in Bulgaria. The danger of the transmission of the infection through blood transfusion has been eliminated, according to experts of the central AIDS laboratory in Sofia. Only ten people

have contracted the disease through homosexual contacts since AIDS tests were introduced. Heterosexual contacts remain the principal way of contracting AIDS and this is an alarming fact, physicians say. Eleven children were born to infected mothers, and one of them is definitively diagnosed as infected.

The import of AZT, the only existing medicine for AIDS, is expensive and often unobtainable. [sentence as received]

**CROATIA****UNPROFOR Blamed for AIDS 'Epidemic'***LD3011205393 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 30 Nov 93*

[Text] On the occasion of 1 December, World AIDS Day, the Croatian Society of Victimology [Hrvatsko Zrtvoslovno Društvo] will send a demand to the United Nations and the World Health Organization to have UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] personnel undergo medical checkups. Zvonimir Separovic, president of the society, has disclosed at a news conference.

In addition to other calamities, the UN peace-keeping operation has brought Croatia an AIDS epidemic. This was confirmed by research done by pathologists belonging to the American Mobile Army Surgical Hospital after the death of several members of UNPROFOR's Kenyan battalion and a statement by the peace-keeping forces' spokeswoman, Shannon Boyd, that symptoms of this disease have been discovered in the blood of several UNPROFOR soldiers from East Europe, Separovic said.

Thirty-six persons have died from this terminal disease in Croatia so far and some 60 have been infected, but the real figures are certainly much higher.

**Group Demands AIDS Tests for UNPROFOR Workers***AU3011172393 Paris AFP in English 1704 GMT 30 Nov 93*

[Text] Zagreb, Nov 30 (AFP)—A Croatian jurists' group on Tuesday said it will call for all U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) staff to have AIDS tests, after several cases of the disease were reported among U.N. forces.

Former foreign minister Zvonimir Separovic, who heads the Croatian Victims Society, said he would make the request officially to U.N. officials and the World Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday, World AIDS Day.

Separovic said that the U.N. operation has "contributed, among other misfortunes, to the extension of AIDS," in Croatia. He said authorities had to "protect everyone who could be under threat, not only sick people."

Zagreb said last month that four U.N. workers serving in former Yugoslavia had died of the killer disease this year.

UNPROFOR spokeswoman Shannon Boyd declined to confirm the figure, but said that a small number of cases had been registered among the tens of thousands of U.N. forces in the Balkan region.

According to official statistics, 53 people have been registered as suffering from AIDS in Croatia since 1986, of whom 36 have died.

## HUNGARY

### Welfare Ministry Reports on AIDS Cases

AU3011174893 Budapest MTI in English 1356 GMT  
30 Nov 93

[Text] Budapest, 30 Nov (MTI)—AIDS has so far claimed 81 lives in Hungary. There are 140 patients on record with full-blown AIDS, and 360 people are known to have the virus. However, estimates put the number of HIV cases at about 2,000-2,500, many of them foreigners living in Hungary.

The above figures were reported at a press conference in the Ministry of Welfare in Budapest on Tuesday, held to mark World AIDS Day, December 1.

AIDS in Hungary most frequently afflicts men, mainly homosexuals and bisexuals.

There are relatively few hemophiliacs among the HIV positive patients, and the number who received the virus through blood transfusions or through drug use are also low.

The 20 to 39 age group is the most endangered.

Most of the HIV positive patients live in the vicinity of Budapest. However, many infections were noted in the country's western and north-eastern parts.

## POLAND

### National AIDS Conference Stresses Education

LD3011230993 Warsaw PAP in English 2244 GMT  
30 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Warsaw, Nov. 30—The 2nd national conference on AIDS, held on World AIDS Day, on Tuesday mapped out the directions of actions to prevent and fight the disease. Sexual education was recognized as the most important task.

Summing up the conference Krzysztof Dziubinski, the health minister's commissioner for AIDS said the promotion of healthy lifestyle and education for health should be conducted not only by the Ministry of Health, but also educational authorities, the church, media and

television. The National Coordinating Bureau for AIDS Prevention was created recently to help training specialists for health education.

The conference pointed to the need to immediately amend the old laws on drug abuse of 1985, and on combatting infectious diseases of 1963. [passage omitted]

## ROMANIA

### Danish County Donates Emergency Hospital to Brasov

94P20130A Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in  
Danish 27 Nov 93 p 2

[Article by "sc": "Donating Hospital to Romania"]

[Text] (Hillerod) Frederiksborg County can now present its Romanian sister county, Brasov, an emergency hospital. Forty tons of excess hospital equipment have been waiting a year for the Romanians to pay the shipment expenses. The donation will now be sent, because the [Danish] county has decided to itself pay the 100,000-kroner transport cost.

## SLOVAKIA

### Hepatitis Epidemic Mounts in East Slovakia

AU1612065693 Prague CTK in English 1957 GMT  
15 Dec 93

[Text] Kosice, east Slovakia, Dec 15 (CTK)—Almost 300 people have already been hospitalized in Kosice with viral hepatitis A, city health officials said today.

On Tuesday the number of patients was reported to be about 150.

Most of the victims are men aged 15 to 35 and children aged ten to fourteen, of which there are 64.

Individual cases of jaundice have also been reported in the Kosice-Venkov district among people who daily commute to Kosice.

Because of the large number of cases, several clinics in two hospitals had to be used temporarily as infectious disease wards, and the dormitory of the Central Health School had to be turned into a temporary hospital.

The cause of the epidemic has not yet been determined, but health officials do not think it was caused by contaminated city water or by products of the local dairy.

The chairman of the Kosice District Council has closed all basic and secondary schools in Kosice. Large gatherings have also been forbidden. Fish and packaged groceries sold in public places are subject to strict health regulations.



In 1979, 3,000 people in Kosice were afflicted by jaundice.

## YUGOSLAVIA

### Incidence of Hepatitis Increases in Schools

4U0712195093 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian  
2 Dec 93 p 10

[A. Brkic report: "Increased Number of Jaundice Sufferers"]

[Text] We have learned from the appropriate epidemiological services that the number of jaundice sufferers in Serbia has increased in comparison to the number in previous years. The situation is not alarming because the number of sufferers is not large, but it is worrying that this disease has appeared in schools, so that there is the possibility of it spreading through a chain reaction, the epidemiologists say. We are talking about Type A infectious hepatitis, an infectious intestinal disease, which is also called the dirty hands disease. It is caused by a virus and is transferred by dirty hands, food, and water. This is stressed by epidemiologist Veljko Djerkovic, assistant director for epidemiology and microbiology in the city institute for health protection, and Dr. Svetislav Zonjic, deputy director of the republican institute for health protection.

#### The Virus is the Culprit

According to Djerkovic, jaundice sufferers have been found in 37 schools in Belgrade. Of these, 32 are primary schools and five high schools, while the disease has been reported in several Belgrade kindergartens. Djerkovic stresses that this situation is not alarming at the moment because there are no more than five or six sufferers in all these institutions apart from two. The problem is that this is an infectious disease that spreads through a chain and the financial situation in the schools is such that many of them do not have the money to maintain the necessary level of hygiene. It is a good thing that the winter vacation is approaching. This will probably stop this disease spreading, Djerkovic hopes.

In comparison to September and October last year, an increase in other acute infectious diseases, not only hepatitis, has also been registered, which was expected. This is because, for example, the Type A viral hepatitis (an infectious intestinal disease) is a consequence of a reduction in the body's resistance, a fall in the quality of food, and worse sanitary conditions, as well as a cyclical course, Zonjic and Djerkovic explain.

That is to say, the aforementioned type of hepatitis has its own cycle so that "a certain rise in the number of sufferers" appears at specific intervals even under normal conditions, Zonjic explains.

Djerkovic says that in the Belgrade schools in which the jaundice has appeared deficiencies have been noticed in hygiene and sanitary conditions and the condition of the

buildings and equipment. The schools have been ordered to solve these problems and to take measures to improve general and personal hygiene and to carry out a so-called on-going disinfection, that is to say, clean and wash all toilets and kitchens and places where food is prepared. After that there is a final disinfection which, on the order of the city institute for health protection, is carried out by the institute for disinfection and insect and vermin extermination.

#### Signs of Infection

However, difficulties arise when it comes to what the schools should do. They have generally not performed their part of the task either for personnel or practical reasons, Djerkovic explains. Most often for practical reasons because they do not have any money.

According to Zonjic, there are no precise figures on the incidence of jaundice in schools in other towns in Serbia, but "there has been a certain increase in this disease in Serbia."

So that even the layman can detect the Type A viral hepatitis in time, Djerkovic explains the symptoms thus: nausea, vomiting, exhaustion, loss of appetite, and, in the later stage of the disease, dark-colored urine and light-colored stool and yellowness in the white of the eyes and on the skin.

At the same time, Djerkovic warned of the problem of trichinosis. He therefore advises everyone who buys pig's meat from private traders to first take it for a veterinary examination before cooking it.

### Conditions at Macedonian Hematology Clinic

94WE0082B Skopje NOVA MAKEDONIJA in  
Macedonian 21 Oct 93 p 4

[Article by E. Kamberova: "Treatment in Wrecked Premises"]

[Text] Patients who must be treated in a sterile environment are being treated in humid areas. Health inspectors demand improvements in the overall condition of the clinic.

For several months, the Hematology Clinic of the Skopje School of Medicine has existed in a situation bordering on the absurd. Patients who must be hospitalized and treated in sterile premises are being treated in hospital rooms that not only are not properly sterile, but are in ruins. They are perennially humid and quite frequently the sewage pipes leak.

The Hematology Clinic of former Yugoslavia was one of the top clinics in terms of technology and personnel, says Docent Doctor Nikola Siljanovski, its director. Currently, it can boast only of its personnel who, he claims, meet all requirements of contemporary hematology and bone marrow transplants. This is the only Macedonian institution to treat blood and blood generating organs (erythrocytes, leucocytes, thrombocytes...). More than 60

percent of hematological diseases of the blood consist of malignant hemopathies. Patients suffering from such afflictions become immunodeficient, Doctor Siljanovski explains. They lack white blood cells, which protect the body. This means that the very methods for the treatment of such patients, at a specific phase in the development of the disease, requires specific conditions, such as treating them in separate wards, isolated and sterile, thus ensuring a high degree of protection from infections. In the past, in the good old times, the proper conditions were observed and the personnel treating such patients were thoroughly protected with special masks. Unfortunately, this is now part of the past. Today there is moisture everywhere, particularly along the walls, broken tiles, and water seeping, most probably from sewer pipes. The premises smell of moisture and rot and, in general, hygiene in the premises is exceptionally poor. The treatment standards are below all standards. Under such poor conditions for treating patients, the logical consequence is worsened health and increased cases of hospital infections. Most of the findings of the inspectors confirm that the sanitary and hygienic conditions of the Hematological Clinic are poor. The inspectors have repeatedly pointed out that the overall working conditions in the clinic, particularly in the test laboratories, must be improved. The inspectors issue their orders to the clinic, which is unable to resolve the problem for the simple reason that such improvements require funds.

In addition to the "communal" problems, the work of the Hematology Clinic is also made more difficult

because of the obsolete equipment, long years of failure to invest in equipment and in building repairs, and the frequent shortage of reagents, substrata, and markers required in genetic methodology.

I believe, Doctor Siljanovski said, that hematology has been unfairly neglected. It must be considered part of internal medicine and developed the same as all other medical disciplines. The current inadequate handling of it compromises the exceptionally complex treatment of blood diseases.

#### **Cases of Brucellosis in Macedonia Reported**

94WE0082A Skopje VECER in Macedonian 28 Oct 93  
p 10

[Article by R.P.: "Eleven People Sick From Brucellosis"]

[Text] Kavadarci—This year the medical center in Kavadarci has especially focused on the elimination of brucellosis in people. Unlike last year, when more than 400 cases were recorded, this year there have been only 11. This proves that the regular information given to the citizens on how to protect themselves from that disease has begun to yield results.

Furthermore, teams of experts regularly check the herds in the private and public sectors and conduct examinations, after which any animal suffering from brucellosis is destroyed immediately.

**Regional Health Report 26 Nov**

PA2711124593

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on regional health and epidemiology developments monitored through 26 November. Source is cited in parentheses following each item.

**Colombia**

Luis Alfonso Ante Benitez, sectional chief of health of Risaralda Department, has reported that one of the 35 cases of symptoms of bleeding dengue fever has tested positive in Dosquebradas, Risaralda Department. Ante said cases have been reported since October, but only one has tested positive thus far. (Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 19 Nov 93, p 11B)

The Health Ministry has reported that 3,953 persons have developed AIDS. According to statistics, 7,730 persons have been infected with the said virus since 1983, although over half of them have not developed the illness. A total of 243 persons have developed AIDS in 1993. However, unofficial numbers indicate that the number of ill persons, healthy carriers, and victims of AIDS is much higher than the official numbers. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 2157 GMT 23 Nov 93)

**Costa Rica**

Health authorities in Guatuso Canton, Alajuela Province, have reported that three cases of cholera have been confirmed. With these three new cases, the number of cholera cases in Costa Rica increases to 26. (San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 17 Nov 93, 6A)

The Health Ministry has reported that 20 cases of malaria have been confirmed in the town of Jaco, on the Costa Rican Pacific coast. The authorities have added that the majority of the persons infected are Nicaraguan workers who are now being treated. As of 24 November, 4,701 cases of malaria were detected in the country, 80 percent of them on the Atlantic coast. Besides this epidemic, there has also been an outbreak of dengue fever with over 5,000 cases registered over a period of two months. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1850 GMT 26 Nov 93)

**Ecuador**

Acting Health minister Nicolas Jara reported on 26 November that rabies has killed 29 persons so far this year and added that this is one of the biggest health problems in Ecuador. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1614 GMT 26 Nov 93)

**El Salvador**

Dr. Santiago Rigoberto Almeida, director of the Epidemiology Department of the Health Ministry, said that at least 30,000 Salvadorans are carrying the AIDS virus

even though many of them ignore it. (San Salvador Radio Venceremos Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Nov 93)

**Guatemala**

The Guatemalan Health Ministry reported on 22 November that cholera kills one person and another 31 contract the virus every 24 hours. The source added that, since it began in July 1991, the epidemic has killed 506 persons and 25,903 have been hospitalized. Thus far in 1993, there have been 20,239 unconfirmed cases, 5,486 confirmed cases, 18,955 persons have been hospitalized, and 279 have died. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2224 GMT 22 Nov 93)

Doctor Carlos Cordova, chief of the Public Health Ministry in the Alta Verapaz Department, has reported that three AIDS cases were recently detected among indigenous communities of the area. Dr. Cordova added that the problem with detecting the advance of AIDS is that the indigenous peoples refuse to allow medical authorities to take blood from them. (Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 25 Nov 93 p 131)

**Honduras**

Health authorities reported on 24 November that WHO estimates that approximately 60,000 Hondurans are carrying the AIDS virus. The source added that since the AIDS virus appeared in Honduras there have been a total of 3,193 patients, of which 751 have died. (San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 24 Nov 93 p 12)

**Nicaragua**

A report from the Epidemiology Observation Office of Nicaragua stated that 74 new cases of cholera were registered over the weekend of 20 November and that two of the patients died. Therefore, so far this year 200 persons have died of cholera and 5,932 persons have been affected. (Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 233 Nov 93 p 4)

**Panama**

Manuel Vasquez, director of the National System for the Eradication of Malaria, reported on 22 November that three cases of dengue fever have been confirmed in San Miguelito District and that there is one suspected case in the Juan Diaz corregimiento, but that authorities have not declared it an epidemic because all cases are under control. (Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 23 Nov 93 p 1A)

A report from the Technical Epidemiology Division of the Health Ministry indicates that a total of 340 persons have died of AIDS in Panama since the first case was detected in early 1984. The report adds that there are another 580 registered cases and that scientific studies indicate that there must be approximately 30,000 carriers of the HIV virus without symptoms. (Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 24 Nov 93 p 12)

## Peru

Health authorities have reported that over 15 persons have been infected with cholera and are receiving attention at the Moquegua regional hospital. (Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Nov 93)

Health authorities of Ica Department are on alert because a case of polio in an 18 month old boy has been registered in the hamlet of Orongo. The authorities ordered an emergency vaccination drive. (Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Nov 93)

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## Regional Health Report 3 Dec

PA0412212493

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on regional health and epidemiology developments monitored through 3 December. Source is cited in parentheses following each item.

## Colombia

Although Health Ministry figures indicate there are no more than 60,000 AIDS cases in the country, Social Security says the figure totals 120,000. Moreover, 70 percent of the patients range in ages from 24 to 44. The largest number of cases are reported in San Andres, Quindio, Risaralda, and Antioquia Departments and in Santa Fe de Bogota. (Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Dec 93)

## Costa Rica

National AIDS Commission Director Guisella Herrera has reported 100 cases of AIDS have been registered so far this year, raising to 500 the number of persons who have this disease. She also noted there are at least 10,000 AIDS carriers in the country. (Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2011 GMT 1 Dec 93)

## Cuba

Dr. Manuel Santin, national epidemiology director at the Health Ministry, has stated there are 970 HIV carriers in the country, of which 226 have developed AIDS. He added that 143 AIDS patients have died. According to this official, the incubation period was extended to 10.5 years. The percentage of cases in the population is 0.007 percent Santin noted. (Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Dec 93)

## Ecuador

Statistics indicate 586 persons have been infected with or are ill with AIDS in Ecuador. The most cases are reported in Quito and Guayaquil. (Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Dec 93)

## El Salvador

Dr. Licida Bautista de Mejia of the Pan American Health Organization has revealed that, since the first case of AIDS was reported in the country in 1984, 1,345 persons have died of this disease. It is estimated that 1,123 may be infected with the virus. So far in 1993, 18 persons have died of it. (San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 2 Dec 93 p 4)

## Guatemala

According to recent disclosures by the health and social welfare minister to a congressional health commission, the spread of AIDS in Guatemala is reaching alarming levels. According to recent Health Ministry data, at least 31,000 cholera patients have been reported of which 75 percent have received medical treatment. The same data



indicate that 249 cholera patients have died so far. With respect to AIDS, 430 cases and 420 HIV positive cases have been reported. Most of the AIDS cases have been in the 22-29 age group. (Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 29 Nov 93 p 4)

Miriam Cobar Aguilera, head of the National AIDS Control and Prevention Program, PNPCS, disclosed that 1,002 AIDS cases had been recorded between 1984 and October 1993. She also indicated that this represented a 16.7 percent growth rate with respect to 1986. The PNPCS official explained that 467 cases have been confirmed, while 535 cases are recorded as asymptomatic carriers and are virtual transmission agents without being aware of this fact. According to PNPCS data, 142 men and 36 women have died of AIDS related causes. On the other hand, Mireya Gularte, director of the Orientation Center for Sexually Transmittable Diseases and AIDS Prevention, CODETS, stated that the number of AIDS cases in Guatemala could be greater than 50,000 because most men and women evade normal control tests. (Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 1 Dec 93 p 8)

#### Honduras

A recent health authority study points out that more than 3,000 proven AIDS cases, and 60,000 HIV positive cases have been recorded in Honduras. The study also reports that for every 100 Central American AIDS cases recorded, 57 are Hondurans. Although Honduran health authorities attribute the spread of AIDS to poor information with respect to risks involved in contracting the disease, some sectors link the epidemic's rapid growth to the presence of U.S. troops in the country. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1147 GMT 27 Nov 93)

Health official Dr. Felicito Montalvan pointed out recently that the number of AIDS related deaths recorded in the country could be greater than the 3,193 cases reported to date by the Health Ministry. According to Dr. Montalvan, Health Ministry data could be underestimated because some AIDS-related deaths are not reported. (Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 2 Dec 93 p 5)

Health authorities reported on 2 December that 11 new cholera cases had been recorded which brings the total number to 3,201 cases and 81 deaths since first recorded in October 1991. According to the health authorities, 2,077 cases were reported during 1993 and the most affected regions include Choluteca (1,206), San Francisco Morazan (295), and Valle (250). (San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Dec 93 p 2)

#### Nicaragua

Health Ministry sources in Managua reported that 35 people have died of AIDS so far, while 47 others are infected. They added that there are 111 HIV carriers and, although there is no precise figure, they believe that as many as 15,000 Nicaraguans have been infected in all. (Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1148 GMT 1 Dec 93)

#### Panama

Health authorities released a report stating that there have been 123 cases of AIDS reported this year. Nationwide, since the disease was first reported, there have been 587 cases treated, 500 of which were men and 87 women. It is believed that there are between 11,000 and 14,000 carriers. On the sadder side of these statistics, there are eight children who were reported as HIV positive during 1993. (Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 28 Nov 93 p 29)

Livestock association leaders have warned of rabies among cattle that could be transmitted to humans. There have been 10 cases of bovine rabies up to now, and Health Minister Guillermo Rolla announced that a team of specialists has been sent to eastern Panama province to investigate and determine control measures. (Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 1 Dec 93, p 12)

Three new dengue cases were recorded in the San Miguelito district which could be the beginning of an epidemic according to reports disclosed by Health Minister Guillermo Rolla Pimentel. He also stressed the fact that the three new cases were recorded in the same area where the first three cases were uncovered less than six weeks ago. (Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 3 Dec 93 p 5a)

Dr. Marcel Peina, head of an AIDS research group, has pointed out that the number of AIDS carriers in Panama could range between 11,000 and 14,000 persons. According to Dr. Peina, these persons represent a real threat since they are unaware that they are HIV positive and the health authorities have no record of their whereabouts. Dr. Peina also disclosed that AIDS has now been recorded in every province in the country but mostly in Panama City and San Miguelito district. At least 587 cases have been recorded in Panama, and 536 deaths. (Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 3 Dec 93 p 10A)

#### Peru

According to Health Ministry data, approximately 30,000 and 40,000 Peruvians are believed to be HIV positive without being aware of it. Since 1983, when the first AIDS case was recorded, up until October 1993, at least 953 cases have been recorded. Of the total number of cases recorded, 84.58 percent are men. (Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Dec 93)

Aids was first recorded in Peru in July 1983; since then 153 cases have been reported, but the number of estimated individuals believed to be HIV positive totals 100,000. Of the total number of cases recorded in Peru, 91.6 percent include men, while 8.4 percent are women; nevertheless, considering that the contagion index among heterosexuals is increasing dramatically, the risk to women is greater with each passing day. In 1989, for example, for each 12 cases of AIDS among men, only one AIDS case was reported among women. During 1993, the proportion increased to such an extent that now there

is one case among women for each eight cases among men. Of the total number of cases, 33.4 percent are in the 20- to 29-year-old group, and 36.2 percent are in the 35-year-old bracket.

According to the Health Ministry, there are 3,000 AIDS cases in Peru, and 73 percent of those cases are in Lima. The dramatic spread of the epidemic in the provinces indicates that it is spreading rapidly throughout the country. Health data show that the following numbers of cases have been reported throughout Peru: six cases in Cusco; 16 cases in the Trujillo regions of La Libertad and 55 in La Primavera; 23 proven cases and eight deaths in Tumbes; 35 cases in Iquitos; 42 confirmed cases in Chiclayo; 58 cases in Arequipa. (Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 29 Nov 93)

#### Venezuela

Recent AIDS statistics in Venezuela reveal the following trend up until 30 September 1993: total number of cases—3,100; number of deaths—1,690; reported cases among men—2,853; deaths among men—1,556; cases among women—241; deaths among women—132. (Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 1 Dec 93 p C2)

According to figures released by Dr. Luis Echezuria, Health and Social Welfare Ministry epidemiology director, during the current year approximately 7,600 dengue cases and 14 related deaths have been reported throughout Venezuela. The most affected regions include Tachira, Barinas, Aragua, Miranda, Lara, and the Federal District. (Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 27 Nov 93 p. 2-16)

#### Regional Health Report 10 Dec

PA1012213893

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on regional health and epidemiology developments monitored through 10 December. Source is cited in parentheses following each item.

#### Colombia

In the 10 years that AIDS has been reported in Colombia, it has officially caused 1,800 deaths. Nevertheless, according to the National Survey on Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices Related to Sexually Transmitted Diseases, 121,000 people may be infected with the virus in Colombia. The survey was carried out among 18,000 people and was contracted by the Social Security Institute. It found that 20.3 percent of the men tested positive while 1.3 percent of the women tested positive. That means that out of the total population, 118,093 men and 3,538 women might test positive. This would be equivalent to 35 out of every 10,000 Colombians. (Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 1 Dec 93 p 3a)

#### Costa Rica

Alberto Lostalo, director of the health center in Puntarenas, has reported an outbreak of malaria in Jaco, where 20 cases

were discovered. The malaria epidemic continues growing in the country but at a slower rate than in 1992. Up to 24 November, the Health Ministry recorded 4,701 cases, 80 percent of which were on the Atlantic coast. (San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 26 Nov 93 p 8a)

#### Mexico

The Health Secretariat reported on 4 December that there have been 10,004 cholera cases in Mexico this year. Of these, 180 people have died. The most affected states are Puebla, Morelos, Mexico, Oaxaca, Chiapas, Yucatan, and Queretaro and Mexico City. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 2119 GMT 4 Dec)

#### Panama

Gerardo Vega, Agricultural Development Ministry director in Chepo, has reported that the Ministry has begun the mass poisoning of vampire bats in the area of San Martin where there has been an outbreak of rabies among cattle and horses. It has also restricted the transfer of slaughtered cattle in the area. (Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Dec 93 p 7a)

#### Regional Health Report 17 Dec

PA1812000293

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on regional health and epidemiology developments monitored through 17 December. Source is cited in parentheses after each item.

#### Costa Rica

On 15 December, local health authorities confirmed that 4,376 cases of dengue have been recorded so far this year since the first outbreak on 19 October. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2320 GMT 15 Dec 93)

On 15 December, medical sources report that more than 200 workers died between 1992 and 1993 after being poisoned by pesticides. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2016 GMT 15 Dec 93)

According to the Cancer Institute, an estimated 5,000 new cases of cancer were registered in 1993. (San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 7 Dec 93 p 6a)

#### Honduras

Health authorities said that 10 more cases of cholera have been reported in Tela City since November. (Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 14 Dec 93 p 15)

#### Mexico

On 11 December, a Health Ministry spokesman said that a total of 235 cholera cases—of which four people died—were reported 4-10 December. An increase in cholera cases was noted from the previous period of 27 November-3 December, when 95 cases were reported. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 1830 GMT 11 Dec 93)

**Nicaragua**

According to Health Ministry records, 253 people have died of cholera and more than 7,500 others have been infected since the first outbreak in this country two years ago. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1837 GMT 11 Dec 93)

**Panama**

Health Minister Guillermo Rolla confirmed to EL SIGLO that currently eight cases of dengue have been detected, and he added that the provinces with the highest rates of mosquito infestation are Panama with 6.3 percent and Chiriqui with 4.7 percent. From the eight cases of dengue, seven were detected in San Miguelito District. (Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 11 Dec 93 p 8)

Health Minister Rolla has said that although the possibility of a meningitis epidemic has been eliminated, three people have died of meningitis in the Juan Diaz area. According to Rolla, 36 cases of meningitis were registered in 1993. (Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 11 Dec 93 p 2A)

Thus far this year the Health Ministry has reported 462 cases of malaria, of which 111 were imported from Colombia and Costa Rica. A reduction of 233 malaria cases was recorded from 28 November to 4 December when compared with the same period in 1992. In terms of AIDS cases, a total of 587 cases have been recorded so far since 1984, when the first case was detected. (Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 Dec 93 p B6)

The director of the National Campaign for Malaria Eradication has reported four new malaria cases in San Miguelito District during the week of 13 December. (Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 16 Dec 93 p 1A)

**Southern Cone Health Report 19-25 Nov**

PY2511230793

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on epidemics and diseases monitored by Paraguay Bureau from 19 to 25 November.

**Argentina**

A new cholera case has been registered in Tucuman Province, where the number of persons with the disease has risen to nine. Four new cases have been registered in Salta and Jujuy Provinces, which have the highest rates of cholera. (Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0103 GMT 21 Nov 93)

The Buenos Aires Health Ministry reported on 25 November that two new cases of meningitis had been registered over the past few hours at Sor Maria Ludovica Children's Hospital in La Plata. (Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1341 GMT 25 Nov 93)

The Health Ministry reported on 25 November that four new cholera cases had been detected in Salta Province over the past few hours. An official report noted that 1,746 people have been infected with the disease nationwide in the year's almost first 11 months, most of them in the country's northern part. (Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1807 GMT 25 Nov 93)

**Brazil**

The Health Ministry has released 1 billion real cruzeiros for the program against AIDS in six states. The program is aimed at strengthening the AIDS prevention plan. (Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 25 Nov 93)

**Paraguay**

Nicolas Aguayo Rodriguez, director of the national anti-AIDS program, has reported that 11 new AIDS cases have been registered so far this year, bringing the country's total to 64, of which 41 have been fatal. The statistics reveal that an average 10 AIDS carriers are being registered per month. The anti-AIDS program does not include the 1,000 to 1,500 people who are believed to have the disease. (Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 23 Nov 93 p 28)

**Southern Cone Health Report 26 Nov-2 Dec**

PY0212221893

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on epidemics and diseases monitored by Paraguay Bureau from 26 November to 2 December.

**Argentina**

The Health and Social Action Ministry on 1 December reported six new cholera cases were registered in the previous 24 hours in Salta Province. The total number of cases has risen to 1,777, 27 fatal. (Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1924 GMT 1 Dec 93)

Buenos Aires Province health authorities reported five new cases of meningitis were detected in the federal capital and La Plata in the past few hours. (Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2010 GMT 29 Nov 93)

**Bolivia**

Health authorities reported five new AIDS cases were detected in the past weeks in Santa Cruz de la Sierra Department. Health Under Secretary Joaquin Monasterio stated that the number of persons with HIV has increased to 100 nationwide, 70 in this department. (La Paz HOY in Spanish 22 Nov 93 p 11)

**Brazil**

More than 400,000 Brazilians have been contaminated with the AIDS virus and 18,000 of them already have died of it. In 1994, the Brazilian Government and the



World Bank will allocate \$250 million to fight the illness. In the last 11 years, 43,000 AIDS cases have been registered in the country. The number of AIDS patients in Rio Grande do Sul state increased 50 percent in the last eight months, now totalling 451. Sao Paulo State has 63 percent of all AIDS cases in Brazil: In the last 13 years, 27,000 cases—17,700 fatal—have been registered in the state. Rio de Janeiro state has 20 percent of the AIDS cases in the country—7,500 cases, more than 50 percent fatal. (Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 1 Dec 93)

#### Chile

The interministerial anti-AIDS commission released the second mid-term national program designed to prevent and control the disease between 1994 and 1997. The program outlines actions to reduce AIDS transmission and also includes comprehensive assistance to people with HIV and their families. (Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 19 Nov 93 p 13)

#### Peru

Huanuco Health Subregion Director Cesar Raborg on 14 November reported that 12 people died of cholera in Dos de Mayo Province, Huanuco Department, in the previous 48 hours. (Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 15 Nov 93 p A12)

Health Subregion Director Victor Chavez Rojas reported that a bubonic plague outbreak killed 13 people in the past few days in various townships of San Bernardino District, San Miguel Province, Cajamarca Department. Another 20 people are recovering from the disease. (Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 16 Nov 93 p 20)

Four people died of cholera in the past few days in Sicuani, capital of Cuzco Province, 85 km southeast of Cusco. The first cholera cases were detected here on 15 September, and the number of infected people is now 89. (Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 19 Nov 93 p A12)

#### Uruguay

According to official government figures, the number of people who are HIV-positive nationwide totals 1,312 and the number of AIDS patients is 420. The total number of fatal victims since 1982 is 220. (Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Dec 93)

#### Southern Cone Health Report 3-9 Dec PY0912213393

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on epidemics and diseases monitored by Paraguay Bureau from 3 to 9 December.

#### Argentina

AIDS cases continue to increase in Argentina. The CONSULTOR DE SALUD biweekly bulletin reports that 2,897 AIDS cases were officially reported through 30 September in 1993. (Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1147 GMT 6 Dec 93)

Cordoba Provincial Hospital in the city of Cordoba has been reduced to minimal operations after a hepatitis outbreak that affected 22 people, including physicians and nurses. (Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1309 GMT 7 Dec 93)

Health personnel reported that seven cholera cases have been registered in Salta. (Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Dec 93)

#### Bolivia

Armando Perez Girona, director of the Tarija Health Unit's Epidemiology Department, reported 38 cholera cases, one fatal, were detected in Tarija Department last week. A total of 1,701 cases and 50 fatalities have been registered in this department so far this year. (La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 23 Nov 93 Section 2 p 2)

Cholera continues to spread in Cordillera Province, where 118 cases—10 fatal—have been reported so far. The breakdown of cases is as follows: 63 cases, one fatal, in Cabezas; three cases, one fatal, in Gutierrez; 45 cases, seven fatal, in Lagunillas; four cases in Charagua; and two cases in Boyuive. It was reported that the number of cases is less than in 1992. (La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Dec 93)

#### Brazil

On 1 December, a 23-month-old died of meningitis meningococcus in Rio de Janeiro's Jacarezinho shantytown. Four of the five children infected with the disease died in this shantytown in the past two months. (Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 4 Dec 93 p 23)

#### Chile

The number of reported cases of type-B meningitis throughout Chile has increased to 508 so far this year with reports of two new cases at the Antofagasta Health Unit. The official death toll from the disease is 56. Chile and Argentina, the countries with the highest rate of type-B meningitis in the Southern Cone, decided to conduct joint actions to fight the disease during a meeting held recently in Mar del Plata. (Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 27 Nov 93 p 24)

#### Southern Cone Health Report 10-16 Dec PY1612210093

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on epidemics and diseases monitored by Paraguay Bureau from 10 to 16 December.

**Argentina**

The Health and Social Action Ministry on 14 December reported that five new cholera cases have been registered in Salta Province in the past few hours. The number of persons infected with the disease nationwide rose to 1,867. (Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1946 GMT 14 Dec 93)

**Chile**

Acting Health Under Secretary Luis Martinez on 1 December reported that the total number of AIDS cases has risen to 820 nationwide up to late November. The Metropolitan, Fifth, Second, First, and Fourth Regions have the highest rates of AIDS. (Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 2 Dec 93 pp A1, A12)

**Paraguay**

National Anti-AIDS Program Director Nicolas Aguayo on 10 December reported that eight people have been identified as HIV-positive in November, of whom three have developed AIDS while the others are carriers. The number of persons with AIDS now totals 67, of whom 43 have died. The number of HIV-positive carriers now amounts to 261. (Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 11 Dec 93 p 21)

**Peru**

Regional Health Director Dante Olivera Ortiz de Oros has reported that 70 cholera cases have been registered in Cuzco Department so far this year, of which seven have been fatal. (Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 28 Nov 93 p A19)

Oscar Mujica Lengua, executive director of the Special AIDS Control Program, has reported that the number of persons in Peru with the HIV virus had risen to 953 by the end of October. It is estimated that 30,000 to 40,000 people are infected with the disease. (Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 30 Nov 93 p A11)

**BOLIVIA****Nationwide Children's Vaccination Campaign Ends**

94WE0106E Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 6 Nov 93 p 7

[Text] Authorities from the Cochabamba Health Unit said that as of the end of the year they had covered more than 80 percent of children under five years old, protecting them against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, and measles, as well as women of 14 to 44 years of age with tetanic toxoid.

The Health Unit's head of Epidemiology, Dr. Jorge Flores Ramirez, said that next Friday will conclude the third and final infant vaccination campaign in the district, which is part of the national health plan coordinated by the under secretary of that branch.

The campaign currently under way, which uses the method of home visits, that is, house to house vaccinations, began last 25 October and will end on Friday, the 12th of this month, with results that so far have been acceptable, he said.

"We are prioritizing the outlying urban areas where coverage still needs to be improved within the age group comprised of children under five, with some exceptions in neighborhoods where the presence of disease is feared, where we seek even children of up to 10," he said.

According to Flores Ramirez, this last campaign of the year is intended to achieve at least the same level of coverage as the previous year, which was good, with the intention of exceeding 80 percent coverage for children under one, for a third dose of the three vaccines.

He said that next week they would hold a national evaluation of the Extended Immunization Program in La Paz, for which he is preparing an extensive report on the successes achieved so far.

"This year we achieved coverage of 57.34 percent for poliomyelitis; 51.05 percent for diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough; 56.6 percent for measles, and 66.6 percent for tuberculosis, even though the latter was not part of this campaign," he said, in advance of his report.

He reiterated that these figures demonstrate that good progress was made in the district, since by the end of the year it will be possible to conclude the work with coverage of greater than 80 percent of the overall total.

The house-by-house campaign will conclude next Friday and an evaluation by area and by sector will immediately be performed, and in accordance with the data collected in that evaluation, a new sweep will be made in the areas with low coverage rates, to increase the level of protection among children.

In the current campaign, which so far has had a positive response from parents, approximately 2,000 people participated, including employees of the Under Secretariat of Health and other institutions that customarily cooperate in these areas.

According to data from the Health Unit, it was calculated that during the campaign 68,000 children under five were vaccinated with all the vaccines. No evaluation has yet been carried out, because according to those measures, a sweep will still have to be performed in areas where the anticipated coverage has not been achieved.

**Cholera**

In addition, Flores Ramirez mentioned the problem of cholera in the district, reporting that by week 43 of the epidemic, a total of 1,849 cases had been reported over the course of the year, which means less than 50 percent of the 1992 level.

"Despite this low rate, we believe that it must be presumed that with the coming of the rains we will be

due for an outbreak, for which reason we have to continue following the instructions issued by the Anti-Cholera Commission, and the population bears the greatest responsibility for preventing high risk situations from emerging again," he said.

#### **La Paz Workers Hospital Facilities Described**

94WE0106D La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 1 Nov 93  
p 10

[Text] National health sector authorities contemplated the historical and social importance of the Workers Hospital, one of the first medical centers that continues to serve the poorer sectors of the population, and which has recorded yet another anniversary since its founding.

Some 30 planned surgical operations are performed at the Workers Hospital on a daily basis, with an additional six on an emergency basis. Last year there were 6,485 surgical interventions performed there, ranging from minor up to the most complex pathology (kidney and cornea transplants, cardiac surgery, laparoscopy, oncology, microsurgery of the ear, and ophthalmic neurosurgery, burn reconstruction, trauma, orthopedics, and others).

In 1992, 36,116 patients were recorded for 225,290 laboratory examinations, an average of 700 examinations per day. A total of 83,902 external consultations were performed and each year an average of 10,000 patients are admitted. In addition, that hospital has progressed greatly with respect to diagnostic equipment such endoscopy, radiology, angiology, and others.

#### **Integral Training**

But the Workers Hospital's greatest concern is the integral training of its human resources, from highly specialized professionals to service workers, for which reason it periodically sponsors medical conferences, seminars, workshops, refresher courses, and other educational activities prepared by the Department of Teaching and Research.

Internally, medical seminars are held annually, with a view to disseminating knowledge and scientific experience.

#### **Background**

Yesterday the Workers Hospital in the city of La Paz celebrated 38 years of life and service to the country's insureds and beneficiaries.

The primary hospital center was founded in 1955 during the administration of Victor Paz Estensoro, for the purpose of providing public services in internal medicine, surgery, rehabilitation, laboratory, and external consultations.

#### **Body of Work**

The health facility currently has 500 beds and 800 employees, including professionals, paramedics, and administrative and service workers, of which 160 are high-level specialists, who rose to their positions of responsibility in merit of their qualifications.

#### **Spain Grants Aid to Military Hospitals**

94WE0106C Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish  
9 Nov 93 p 2

[Text] La Paz—This Sunday the 7th (yesterday), four hospital centers run by the National Armed Forces began their modernization, thanks to a \$7.5 million credit recently disbursed by the Spanish Government, as reported to LOS TIEMPOS by Corporation for Military Social Security [COSSMIL] General Manager Gen. Juan Vera.

The health facilities in La Paz, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, and Beni began receiving the necessary materials for their operations, which will soon provide "valuable social services" to the population in those districts of the country, General Vera said.

He added that to this end, TAB (Bolivian Air Transport) planes and Army transport vehicles have left La Paz within the last few hours, carrying the materials acquired under Spanish aid, and destined for the aforementioned departments.

In the Military Chief's view, the modern health facilities will, within 15 days at most, begin providing medical services to civilians, through which they will seek to contribute to improving health benefits in Bolivia and bring down medical costs.

"We will provide our insureds and the rest of the population with an efficient and professional service," the COSSMIL manager said.

He emphasized that the start up of the Military Hospitals in the country's medical treatment available to all social sectors."

Finally, he announced that next 18 November, in celebration of the founding anniversary of Beni, the Corporation for Military Social Security will inaugurate a new Hospital Center in Trinidad, within the context of the Armed Forces' stated objective of putting their sanitary facilities into operation in the country's main corridor.

#### **Oruro: Only Department Exempt From Malaria**

94WE0106B Santa Cruz de la Sierra EL MUNDO in Spanish 2 Nov 93 p 5

[Text] La Paz—The only department in the country whose inhabitants do not face malaria problems is Oruro, according to a report by the National Maternal-Infant Health Directorate.



The report states that according to data from Epidemiology, some 800,000 square kilometers of the country's territory has been affected by this illness and are classified as malaria zone.

The report adds that some 2,500,000 persons live in this zone, many of whom have contracted the illness, and the majority are in a state of risk.

The malaria zones are in the departments of Santa Cruz, Beni, Pando, and Cochabamba; there are also malaria zones north of La Paz and Potosi, and in areas of Tarija.

With respect to Oruro, the report indicates that this district is free of the disease, due to its being surrounded by areas of other departments that do not have the disease.

In recent years, 2,559 infants have been recorded as having the disease, but they are the only sector of the population counted because they are treated for one thing or another in health centers.

The campaigns making vaccination of infants almost obligatory have facilitated such records, which is not the case for adults.

In many cases, he added, adults who have suffered from malaria and recovered or died, have not been reported to the health centers or authorities so that this could be recorded. [passage omitted.]

#### **Malaria Outbreak in Pando; Two Deaths**

94WE0106A Santa Cruz de la Sierra EL MUNDO in Spanish 4 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] Cobiya—At least two persons have died of malaria since an outbreak of that disease was officially declared in various provinces of Pando a month ago, the Health Unit in that district confirmed today.

The first two fatalities, for which no further data was provided, were confirmed while the local health authorities are already on the verge of desperation because the promised equipment and insecticides have not arrived from La Paz to carry out a new fumigation campaign against the mosquito that transmits the virus.

Meanwhile, according to new reports collected by local radio stations, there are high rates of incidence of malaria in the communities of Puerto Rico, Nueva Esperanza, and Santa Rosa de Abuna, with the affected provinces being Manuripi, Abuna, Federico Roman, and Madre de Dios.

Pando Health Unit Director Juan Cayoja reported that a commission from the National Health Secretariat is expected to arrive within the next few days, and will bring a new insecticide that the rural fumigation brigades will use.

It is precisely the lack of that insecticide—to replace the old DDT which is no longer used because it damages the ecosystem—that was blamed in early October as the

reason for the suspension of the fumigation activities, which resulted in the malaria outbreak.

Now the insecticide INCON will be used, which does not damage the environment, Cayoja said.

He added that in addition to the two deaths, approximately one thousand people throughout the department are infected with malaria, and more deaths are feared from lack of resources to assist them in a timely fashion.

Cases of malaria have also appeared in the poorer neighborhoods of Cobiya, inhabited primarily by farmers.

According to Cayoja, the health alert will be in effect during the entire rainy season, which recently began.

### **CUBA**

#### **Porcine Cholera Detected in Havana, Pinar del Rio**

FL2611231293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Porcine cholera, a viral pig disease not observed in Cuba since 1974, has been detected in Pinar del Rio and Havana Provinces, while Havana City, Matanzas, and Isle of Youth have been declared threatened areas. The transportation of pigs within and between provinces is not recommended.

#### **Havana Reports 83 AIDS, 85 HIV, 979 HIV Seropositive Cases**

FL0112213293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Interview with Dr. Jorge Perez, director of Santiago de las Vegas Sanatorium and deputy director of medical care at Pedro Curie Institute, by Roberto Cavada; date not given; all figures as heard—recorded]

[Text][Cavada] Doctor, I think it would be good to give the current number of seropositive cases. [Perez] Currently, we have 979 patients who are seropositive to the Human Immunodeficiency Virus [HIV] in Cuba; of these, 71 percent are males, and 29 percent females. Of this group of patients, 230 have developed Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome [AIDS] since 1986; of these 230 patients, 144 have died. [Cavada] We have been told, and other sources we have consulted have told us, that there are only slightly over 80 patients in Cuba right now. [Perez] Yes. If you subtract the 145 deaths from the 230 AIDS cases, the result is exactly 83 patients. That is the number alive today.

In Cuba, the number of HIV infections to date is 85. The main goal of the Cuban program is to identify people before they become ill. This is in contrast with other programs in the world that identify seropositive individuals after they have already become ill or when they go to the hospital, or by chance.

The goal of the Cuban program is to detect seropositive cases as early as possible as to give counseling and also do preventive work so that this disease does not spread. This is the reason our figures are much smaller than those of other countries. We never have had an unchecked geometric growth of this infection. We have had a small mathematical growth in the number of seropositive cases since 1987. In 1986 we detected a number of cases accumulated from prior years. h1  
AIDS Center Director, Patients on Quality of Treatment  
FL0112031693 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision  
Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Report by NTV correspondent Nestor Labrada on the Ciego de Avila AIDS Sanatorium, including interviews with the sanatorium director and patients; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Labrada] Every 24 hours approximately 5,000 people in the world become seropositive of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus [HIV], which causes the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome [AIDS]. This is the AIDS Sanatorium of Ciego de Avila, one of the 13 currently operating in Cuba. In these centers, more than 900 patients receive dedicated care. For each patient, the state spends more than 28,000 pesos annually. The centers form part of the extensive program operating in Cuba to prevent the spread of the epidemic, a program that ranges from testing pregnant women to monitoring seropositive cases. Orestes Antonio Varo, director of the Ciego de Avila Sanatorium, points out that patients receive not only medical treatment but also the understanding and affection that is needed in these cases. [Varo] Efforts are made to keep the patients healthy and to establish a favorable psychological environment that will ultimately benefit their health. Furthermore, we prepare the patients for a future mobile service, which we hope to implement soon. The Ministry of Public Health is currently working very hard on this program so that our patients can return to the streets and live a normal life. [Labrada] For four consecutive days, these patients at the [words indistinct] receive the necessary treatment. They spend the rest of the week with their relatives at home. [First unidentified patient] Life in the sanatorium is very good. The truth is that if it were not for the sanatorium and the government, we would not be receiving any treatment. [Labrada] Many would like to incorporate themselves into society. [Second unidentified patient] I would like to continue my normal life. [Labrada] To this day, many associate the sickness with moral problems and do not understand that AIDS is a disease that affects all people and one that it is everybody's responsibility to prevent. [Third unidentified patient] I call on the youth and the population to maintain stability with regard to their partner; to practice safe sex; and not to reject people with AIDS just for being seropositive, but to help us overcome this evil so that we can all overcome it.

## GUATEMALA

### Cholera Epidemic Worsening in Chiquimula

94WE0107A Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish  
23 Oct 93 p 4

[Article by Ricardo Gatica Trejo]

[Text] Chiquimula Department, located 167 km east of the capital, is being stricken by a cholera epidemic that has caused 10 deaths in only 72 hours, and has hospitalized 54 more persons, according to volunteer firefighters.

The report provided by that institution's public relations office claims that its units are working in the town of Chiquimula and other settlements in the department, transporting the victims.

Between Wednesday and yesterday, Friday, the CVB [Volunteer Firefighter Corps] ambulances have taken 85 patients to the Chiquimula National Hospital, 54 of whom proved to have contracted the disease.

#### In the Urban Area

It was added that, in the town of Chiquimula, there are cholera victims in the Cuatro de Febrero, El Angel, La Democracia, and El Molina districts, to which the CVB ambulances have been dispatched.

It was also noted that, of the cholera patients in the town of Chiquimula, one adult and one child have died; however, more deaths are feared, because the same circumstances are prevalent.

#### In the Rural Area

It was further explained that seven more persons died of the disease in the municipality of San Juan la Ermita, and that there is evidence of many other victims in that entire section.

Elsewhere in the report, it was noted that another young girl, aged 16, had died from cholera in Equipulas, and that patients from the villages of Marraxco and Canan are appearing at the national hospital.

The volunteer firefighters added that cholera victims have also been reported in the villages of Shusho Arriba and Shusho Abajo. Although these volunteers have but little equipment, they are responsible for transporting the patients.

At the national hospital as well, work is being done with only meager resources available. Nevertheless, the staff's major effort is aimed at saving the lives of patients, many of whom are already in an advanced state of dehydration upon arrival.

The volunteer firefighters explained that, if the rate continues as it is now, they will have to request aid from their headquarters in the capital, so as to be reinforced

with personnel and equipment, in addition to ambulances for moving the patients.

## HONDURAS

### AIDS Deaths Reach 750

94WE0073A San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish  
16 Oct 93 p 15

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Spokesmen for the Ministry of Public Health have reported that 16 of the 179 patients suffering from the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) reported last month have died.

Between 1985 and the present, 3,182 cases of the "20th century plague" have been reported. This figure includes 1,049 women and 2,131 men.

Of this total, 750 have died, 1,930 are still living, and it is unknown where 500 of the infected individuals are. The majority of the patients are in San Pedro Sula.

In 1985, four cases were reported. The numbers for the subsequent years are 1986—13, 1987—103, 1988—189, 1989—256, 1990—596, 1991—495, 1992—735, and in 1993, to date—787.

### Cholera Epidemic Worsens; Reporting Discrepancies

94WE0073B Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish  
24 Sep 93 p 46

[Text] The health authorities announced yesterday that 215 new cases of cholera have been reported this week; of these patients, three have died. This latest report brings the total number of patients reported from 1991 to the present to 1,524.

In 1993 alone, 1,100 cases have occurred. The patients who died included a young man of 22 in San Jose Comayagua and two children, four and 11 years of age, in Tegucigalpa.

The area most seriously affected by cholera continues to be the southern zone, specifically the department of Choluteca, where 166 of the 215 new cases occurred. After Choluteca, Valle and Francisco Morazan are the areas most affected, while the number of patients reported in Copan and Atlantida remains at the normal level. Men accounted for 935 of the cases reported, and women for 563.

Differing with the official figures, Maria del Carmen Portillo, the coordinator of the Child Welfare and Development Project of the Evangelical Committee of Development and National Emergency (CEDEN), has reported that in El Triunfo, in the department of Choluteca, 200 individuals have been infected with cholera, and 62 have died.

The total number of patients infected by the *Vibrio cholerae* in Choluteca, as reported by the CEDEN, is not

included in the official figures released by the Ministry of Public Health. According to Portillo, an emergency exists in that locality because of this disease.

## PERU

### Government Launches Cholera Prevention Program

94WE0089A Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish  
30 Oct 93 p A7

[Text] Yesterday, Health Minister Jaime Freundt-Thurne Oyanguren announced that his department is adopting preventive measures to avert another cholera outbreak, especially during the coming summer season.

Freundt-Thurne stressed that the Health Ministry has set as its priority the population's education, to prevent its exposure to contracting this disease again.

He claimed that, for this purpose, the status of sanitation is being improved with the installation of water and sewerage services, in some instances financed with Fonavi [National Housing Fund] resources.

He added that the incidence of cholera cases on the national level has been reduced through the sanitation measures being implemented. He admitted that the virus has ceased to be of epidemic proportions, and has become endemic.

He mentioned that, in the latest statistics for the week of 10-16 October, 622 cases of diarrheal diseases were officially reported. He remarked that 83 of them were confirmed as cholera, but that no deaths were reported.

The vice minister of health, Eduardo Young Motta, for his part, confirmed those figures, adding that the number of acute diarrheal diseases for the year in Lima alone is 28,550, with 22 fatalities.

In order to coordinate its preventive action, the Health Ministry is scheduling a series of activities with the municipalities, associated particularly with the control of street vending, considered a leading contaminating agent.

According to a timetable that is due for approval within the next few days, samples will start to be taken of foods sold on the streets, and a widespread community health education campaign will be intensified.

At the same time, doses of rehydrating salts are to be distributed, free of charge, among health centers and medical stations, especially those in human settlements. There are also supplies of serum for treating the serious cases that may appear.

### The Main Propagating Factors

The use of nonpotable water, consumption of contaminated ocean products and vegetables, and a lack of

personal hygiene and sanitation in the home are the main factors spreading cholera, which afflicts persons of any age or social status.

Cholera, the scientific name of which is *vibrio cholerae*, is of bacterial origin. Its virus was discovered in 1884 by the scientist Robert Koch.

The current pandemic began at the end of January 1991, when it struck the population of Chancay primarily. Spreading rapidly among the coastal populations, weeks later it reached the interior of the country. Next, the epidemic extended to Ecuador and, subsequently, to the rest of South and Central America. There were even some "imported cases" treated in the United States.

The Peruvian experience in dealing with this disease evoked the interest of Latin American specialists, who came to Peru to learn about the treatment systems for eradicating the disease in their countries.

**New Cholera Cases Total 123 in Arequipa**  
WA1711204893 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish  
12 Oct 93 p A15

[Excerpt] Arequipa, 11 Oct—A total of 123 cholera cases has been reported within the past two weeks in the Arequipa Region, the majority of the patients coming from the vicinity of the city and the Paucarpata and La Joya districts. This report was made by spokesmen from the Health Ministry's regional administration. (passage omitted)



**ALGERIA****Number of Cases, Deaths From Diphtheria Reported***LD0912233993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 9 Dec 93*

[Text] In the early years of independence, thousands of diphtheria cases were registered in the country. With an idea of eliminating this contagious disease, the Health Ministry made the vaccination of newborn babies compulsory in the 70's. Despite all the measures that have been taken, diphtheria still exists in the country. Over 100 people have recently contracted diphtheria throughout the country. Over to Nacera Bouzid for more details:

[Begin Bouzid recording] About 150 diphtheria cases have been registered in the provinces of Tamanrasset, Ouargla, Ghardaia, Bouira, and Tizi Ouzou from May to December this year. According to the Ministry of Health and Housing, 23 people have died of this disease. The ministry added that a large number of people who have not been vaccinated risk contracting diphtheria. [passage omitted] [end recording]

**EGYPT****Health Minister on AIDS Cases, Preventive Measures***NC0112191393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1745 GMT 1 Dec 93*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 1 Dec (MENA)—Health Minister Dr. 'Ali 'Abd- al-Fattah has said that Egypt has the lowest rate of AIDS infection in the world. The Health Ministry, he added, has provided all blood banks with the equipment needed to detect the AIDS virus. He said that 939,000 blood units have been screened for AIDS since 1987.

Speaking at a ceremony marking World AIDS Day, the minister said that 150,000 individuals in high-risk groups have been tested, including drug addicts, prostitutes, prison inmates suffering from venereal diseases, hemophiliacs, and homosexuals.

The minister pointed out that since 1986, 313 cases of AIDS have been reported among Egyptians and 210 among foreigners. The foreigners suffering from AIDS were returned to their countries, Dr. 'Abd-al-Fattah said. [passage omitted]

**INDIA****Mystery Disease Affects Six Hundred in Bihar***94WE0064E Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 06 Oct 93 p 7*

[Text] PATNA, October 5: More than 600 people in the villages of Khairi Ajarwa, Sisbania and Tikulia in the

Motihari block of East Champaran district have been taken ill during the past six days, with seven of them succumbing to the illness, which is yet to be identified.

While early reports said that it might be cholera, it now appears that it may in fact be food poisoning contracted from eating fish that had washed ashore during the floods and had affected this area.

The director-in-chief, Dr Eileen Thakur, who had a telephonic conversation with the civil surgeon of Motihari this afternoon, told TOINS that people of these villages had fallen ill after consuming the small dead fish. Dr Thakur said the seven persons of Khairi Ajarwa had, in fact, died of food poisoning and not of cholera. She said in Khairi Ajarwa alone 500 people had fallen ill complaining of diarrhea and vomiting.

The civil surgeon of Motihari has informed the government that a medical team has been camping at Khairi Ajarwa village to ascertain whether the disease which had been raging in these villages was cholera vibrio non zero or not.

The director-in-chief, Dr Thakur today directed the civil surgeon to send a detailed report about the disease within two days.

**AIDS Expert Gives Nationwide Statistics***94WE0064D Madras THE HINDU in English 06 Oct 93 p 3*

[Text] MADRAS, Oct 5: Duplication of work in AIDS awareness and prevention could be avoided through periodic review and proper coordination among groups working in the field, the Governor, Dr M. Channa Reddy, has said.

Addressing representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations and the core group on AIDS control formed by the Tamil Nadu Dr MGR Medical University at Raj Bhavan today, he said awareness programmes alone were not enough. They had to be supported by concerted action from the people. All sections of society had to be mobilized in a systematic manner to tackle the spread of the disease.

Universities had a pivotal role to play in the awareness programmes. The blueprint prepared by the medical University could serve to coordinate the work of NGOs and other organizations involved in the field and could cut down expenditure.

The time limit fixed for awareness programmes should be long enough for organizations working in the field to bring about the desired behavioural changes in the individual, Dr Reddy said. Awareness activities in a particular locality could be for a period of three years as NGOs then would have time to draw up their plans and execute them in a better manner.

The Additional Project Director (Technical), National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), Dr Shiv Lal, said

the blueprint prepared by the Medical University was well within the national strategy for AIDS control. The University could supplement the efforts of State-level organisations.

#### 459 full blown AIDS cases

Of the 19 lakh blood samples screened throughout the country by NACO till September, about 13,200 were found to be HIV positive. In about 70 per cent of cases, the transmission was through the sexual mode, according to studies. There were 459 full blown AIDS cases in the country; of this 152 were reported from Tamil Nadu. The figures were based on screening blood samples from among the urban population. The estimated HIV prevalence in the country, including the rural population, would be nearly one million. According to the Planning Commission, migrant labour constituted about 30 per cent of the urban labour force. This group was vulnerable to the disease and efforts had to be made on a large scale to educate them.

The Union Government would spend Rs. 222 crores over a five-year period on AIDS awareness and related projects. 35 per cent of the outlay was earmarked for the Information-Education-Communication (IEC) programmes, 30 per cent for blood safety projects and 10 per cent for Sexually Transmitted Diseases control and surveillance programmes.

#### Locust Swarms Reported in Rajasthan

94WE0064A Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 09 Oct 93 p 11

[Text]AHMEDABAD, September 27: Locust swarms have been sighted again in at least 20 villages of Banaskantha and Mehsana districts, forcing the authorities to launch massive aerial and ground operations to combat them.

A Bell helicopter of the state agricultural department and several jeeps have been deployed to fight the menace.

While locust swarms were sighted over the experimental farms of the Gujarat Agricultural University in Palanpur in Banaskantha on Saturday evening, they were located over some of the villages in Chanasma, Patan and Kheralu talukas of Mehsana district yesterday by the officials of the agricultural department.

The survey by the officials revealed that isolated swarms of both pink and brown coloured adults, located at Banaskantha and Mehsana during the last 24 hours, had been spreading over around 200 hectares of land, threatening the standing crops. A spokesman of the team said that with the use of the helicopter and also intensive dusting by jeeps and aerial survey the swarms were neutralised at Danta, Dhanera, Deesa and Palanpur

yesterday. In Mehsana district intensive ground operation by hand spraying and dusting was on in the affected areas.

According to official sources, at least two swarms located in Banaskantha district were believed to have come from Rajasthan and its surrounding areas. Later they were heading towards Chanasma, Patan and Kheralu in Mehsana district and were moving at the speed of 15 to 20 km per hour. The authorities had also made arrangements for supplying adequate quantity of chemical mixture for ground as well as aerial spraying.

The operation team led by Mr R.S. Tripathi, plant protection officer, also used jet of smoke for neutralising the swarms. According to the latest report certain swarms were believed to have moved towards Pakistan through the Rann of Kutch. The authorities concerned in Kutch district have also been alerted to be ready for taking necessary action.

According to the records of the state agriculture department, locusts had invaded Gujarat 11 times during the last 100 years.

## IRAN

#### Incidence of AIDS in Iran, Preventive Measures Noted

NC1812135893 Tehran SALAM in Persian 7 Dec 93 p 6

[IRNA report: "Tomorrow Will Be Too Late; Let's Prevent AIDS Today"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted on history of AIDS] The first case of AIDS in Iran was reported in 1986 when a six-year-old hemophiliac child contracted it as a result of imported blood, after which the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education set up a department known as the National Committee for Combating AIDS.

According to Dr. Malek Afzali, the deputy minister for health, as of the month of Aban [23 October-21 November] this year, 219 people have been affected by the AIDS virus in Iran. Of these, 85 have contracted the disease, and 62 have died.

The National Committee for Combating AIDS warns that if serious preventive measures are not instituted by the officials and the people in general, this disease could appear on a more extensive scale in the country.

At present, one can state: The best treatment for AIDS and one of the most important means of controlling this destructive disease—as recommended by the World Health Organization [WHO]—is adherence to religion and family values and familiarizing people with the ways the virus is transmitted and measures to prevent it.

Doctors, experts, specialists, and officials at the Blood Transfusion Center and the Health Ministry believe that in order to combat AIDS and its spread on a national level, necessary and adequate training about AIDS and other infectious diseases should be imparted to the people by means of various organizations, such as the

Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, the mass media, and the Friday imams. Special clinics to provide medical services to those who have already been infected by the AIDS virus should be established.

RUSSIA

**Diphtheria Outbreak Reported in Astrakhan; 3 Dead**

LD0212123593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 2 Dec 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Three people, one of them a child, have died as a result of an outbreak of diphtheria in Astrakhan. Fifty-two sick people and 54 carriers of this infection have been hospitalized. The sanitary and epidemiological station sees the cause of this terrible disease in migrational processes. Cases of diphtheria have also been registered in neighboring Kalmykia.

The oblast administration has allocated approximately 50,000,000 rubles for emergency measures to combat the epidemic. Vaccinations have been given to 25 percent of the children and 80 percent of those in the high-risk group. According to the law, which specifies that each territory can draw up its own sanitary regulations, compulsory vaccinations for doctors, students, teachers, shop workers, and the staffs of public catering and motor transport enterprises have been ordered. But, in spite of all the work to provide the public with information, epidemiologists are concerned at the passive attitude of the population and the strange apathy towards their health.

[Begin recording] [V. Salko, oblast's chief sanitary doctor, identified by caption] We are currently doing everything to make sure people understand this problem. We have vaccines. Medicines are being bought. [end recording]

**Recorded AIDS Cases on the Rise in Russia**

PM0212094793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Dec 93 First Edition p 2

[Interview with Vadim Pokrovskiy, leader of the Russian Scientific Methodology Center for the Fight against AIDS, by Lyudmila Dianova; date and place not given: "AIDS Not Sleeping But Increasing Its Victims"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted][Dianova] What is the status of AIDS testing in our country? [Pokrovskiy] We have a system of mass compulsory testing. Zealous medical personnel send to the laboratories everyone who does and does not need it, with no account taken of human rights or of the material cost. There should be a different approach to this problem. [Dianova] How many people are infected with the HIV virus in Russia at the moment?

[Pokrovskiy] Six hundred and ninety-two. As a comparison, there were 652 recorded in May. Some people (not least some journalists) are unimpressed by this figure. And there are voices claiming that the AIDS problem in our country is imaginary or exaggerated. But the situation in the United States 20 years ago was exactly the same! If we do not want to catch up with America in terms of these sad statistics we need to raise the AIDS issue to the level of state policy. And this presupposes the creation of a national AIDS committee, the adoption of a Russian law on AIDS, and the instilling of order in the structure of organizations called upon to combat the HIV infection.

**Muscovites Warned About Probable Diphtheria Epidemic**

LD0712224093 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Anatoliy Solovyev, head of Moscow's chief medical directorate, has warned of the danger of a diphtheria epidemic in the city. Almost 800 people were struck down with diphtheria in Moscow in the past month. There is not yet an epidemic in the city in the full sense of the word, but the danger is present if Muscovites fail to have inoculations against this illness.

**Former BW Plant Developing 'Hyperthermia' Treatment**

PM0312104393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 1 Dec 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report by A. Samoletov and A. Lomakin, identified by caption; figures in brackets denote broadcast time in GMT in hours, minutes, and seconds]

[Text] [201529] [video opens with correspondent against backdrop of building] [Samoletov] A few years ago it was absolutely impossible to enter this enterprise's grounds. This was strictly a defense enterprise and produced nothing less than bacteriological weapons. After the production of bacteriological weapons was banned, a group of scientists from the center joined in the conversion program and began working on a comprehensive method of combating tumors and seeking a method of eliminating AIDS. They based their work on hyperthermia: Heating the tumor or the blood of the patient to a temperature of 42.5 degrees Celsius, at which point the diseased cells die. Similar experiments had been conducted before, but without producing tangible results because in practice raising the temperature too high inevitably results in death. Now the "Biotherapy" Scientific Clinical Center in Novosibirsk has conducted lengthy research into and examination of the human body and has learned how to achieve temperatures up to



45 degrees while protecting the healthy cells and the body itself from the effects of the high temperatures by means of new biological substances developed on the basis of a newly-discovered enzyme. [passage omitted consists of interview] [video shows extensive interior shots of institute with staff and equipment] [201626]

### **Moscow Government Plans Mass Diphtheria Immunization**

PM1612095993 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA  
PRAVDA in Russian 16 Dec 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Giving Every Muscovite Immunity"]

[Text] In connection with the complication of the epidemiological situation as regards diphtheria (the incidence of this illness has increased eightfold over the past five years) the Moscow Government has decreed that the mass immunization of the population be carried out on the capital's territory. Vaccination against diphtheria will be compulsory for all workers in trade, public catering, the services sphere, transport, children's pre-school and medical institutions, schools, and similar organizations. All small children in kindergartens and students in schools, technical colleges, and institutes will be vaccinated. It has been decided to immunize at least 95 percent of the capital's workers against diphtheria.

According to a city hall press center announcement the capital authorities have approved a number of measures to prevent vagrancy.

## **BELARUS**

### **Ministry Reports 80 Diphtheria Cases Over 10 Months**

WS1512111493 Minsk SEM DNEY in Russian  
11 Dec 93 p 4

[Interview with Anatoliy Kozhemyakin, chief epidemiologist of the Belarusian Ministry of Health, by Galina Malakhovskaya under the "Medicine" rubric; place and date not given: "Those Who Are Reckless Get Sick"—questions published in boldface; first two paragraphs are SEM DNEY introduction]

[Excerpts] "Rumor has it that an epidemic of diphtheria is beginning in Belarus. Is that right?" (from reader N. Pavlovich's letter).

A SEM DNEY correspondent has talked to Anatoliy Kozhemyakin, chief epidemiologist of the Belarusian Ministry of Health. [Kozhemyakin] These rumors are grounded. While Belarus recorded 22, 26, and 66 cases of diphtheria in 1990, 1991, and 1992, respectively, over

the first 10 months of this year, we have registered already 80 patients with 38 in Minsk and 12 in its oblast. Unfortunately, we have death cases as well. It is too early to speak about an epidemic, but the disease has passed to the offensive. [Malakhovskaya] Anatoliy Kuzmich, what are the reasons for such a rapid spread of diphtheria? [Kozhemyakin] People perceive diphtheria as a children's infectious disease. However, no matter how paradoxical this may be, this disease has matured considerably. For example, among the 80 patients, 52 people were over the age of 15. This can be explained by the fact that the immunity acquired through vaccination weakens over the years. According to laboratory tests conducted in Belarus, about 40 percent of the population, mostly adults, have no diphtheria antibodies. Therefore, the chief sanitary inspector of Belarus has issued an order requiring that residents be immunized every 10 years beginning from 16 years of age.

Certainly, we must strictly observe the terms of children's immunization. By the way, about 87 percent of the Belarusian population was immunized or repeatedly vaccinated against diphtheria last year. Although this is one of the best indicators among the CIS countries, it falls short of the 95 percent recommended by the World Health Organization [WHO]. [passage omitted] [Malakhovskaya] Anatoliy Kuzmich, we have information that an epidemic of diphtheria has already been registered in Russia. [Kozhemyakin] Not only in Russia, but also in Ukraine. About 8,000 cases of diphtheria have been recorded in Russia over the first nine months of this year with 254 deaths among them. People's constant migration aggravates the situation both in our republic and abroad. According to the WHO statistics, 6,324 diphtheria patients have been recorded in 18 European countries over the first eight months of this year, with Russia and Ukraine accounting for 97 percent. [passage omitted]

### **Statistics Reveal 100 AIDS-Infected People in Republic**

WS3011094093 Minsk SEM DNEY in Russian  
20 Nov 93 p 3

[Report by Andrey Korabelnikov: "The Horrifying First Place"]

[Excerpt] Among the former USSR republics, Belarus ranks third in the number of people infected with venereal diseases and first in the number of those infected with AIDS. As of 20 November 1993, Belarus has 100 AIDS-infected people and 70 percent of them live in Minsk. Regarding the fact that the statistics depict only some 12 percent of those actually infected, you can easily calculate the real number of AIDS-infected people in Belarus. [passage omitted]



## GEORGIA

### Ajaria Takes Measures Against Diphtheria

LD0112173293 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in  
Georgian 1400 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] We have just received this information from Ajaria: The Ministry of Education of Ajaria has decided to close for a month all pre-school institutions, schools, and vocational training colleges in the autonomous republic from 1 December. The reason for the closure is a registered case of diphtheria in Kobuleti rayon. Large-scale preventive measures are to be carried out in the autonomous republic.

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ajaria has decided to entrust the Ministry of Health and Social Security of the autonomous republic with the task of timely implementation of anti-epidemic measures.

## UKRAINE

### Total AIDS Cases Reported on AIDS Day

LD0212125993 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2250 GMT  
1 Dec 93

[Text] Kiev, 1 December—Today is World AIDS Day. According to the presidential committee for fighting AIDS, there are 87 infected people in Kiev, of whom 27 are Kievites. The Ministry of Health Protection reports that there are 141 registered cases of AIDS in Ukraine, 56 percent of whom are men. In total, 12 people have died as a result of AIDS, and four of these were children.

## CYPRUS

**Government Statement Cites 149 AIDS Cases on Island***NC3011173293 Nicosia CYPRUS NEWS AGENCY in English 1620 GMT 30 Nov 93*

[Excerpt] Nicosia, Nov 30 (CNA)—Two more Cypriots were tested HIV positive in November bringing the total number of AIDS cases on the island to 149, an official announcement said Tuesday [30 November].

The two new cases involve a 32-year-old woman and a 35-year-old man.

The high risk age group is 20-39 which includes 64 out of the 82 HIV positive Cypriots of the 149 AIDS cases on the island, 67 involve foreigners. [passage omitted]

In Cyprus, 12 people have died of AIDS, from a total of 20 people who developed the disease in full.

## DENMARK

**National Hospital Reorganization Outlined***94WE0074A Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 4 Nov 93 p 2*

[Article by Kirsten Sorrig: "Revolution at National Hospital"]

[Text] Health: The National Hospital will be divided into nine centers. Of these, seven will function as mini-hospitals. The doctors are worried that specialties will be split up. And that everything is happening too quickly.

The National Hospital is standing before its greatest change ever.

Today the hospital administration is calling all section heads together to orient them on the thorough structural change that will be carried out during 1994. The main elements of the plan will be made public next week.

The National Hospital's 40 divisions will be put together in nine centers. Of these, seven will function as mini-hospitals, some with over 500 employees. The last two centers will, among other things, contain laboratories, pathology, and X ray.

The new plan is based on an analysis done in close cooperation with the consultant firm of McKinsey & Co. The National Hospital's director, Christian Nissen, counts on having centers with new structures and new leadership established during 1994. One of the nine centers is already under way. This is the Heart Center, which was opened on a trial basis a year ago, and which will run completely according to the new method of operation by 1 January.

"The patients will have a shorter waiting time, and the hospitalization procedure will go more smoothly,"

Nissen said. "They will meet fewer doctors and nurses, and the atmosphere will become that of a smaller hospital."

**Divided Specialties**

Among the doctors there is worry that the thorough change will destroy the specialties. And that everything is being done too quickly. In the Specialist Division, where the doctors' further training is supervised, the developments are being watched closely.

"We are not negative about the new organizational forms," the division chairman, senior Dr. Hans Karle of Herlev Hospital said. "On the other hand we think that it would be wisest to analyze things thoroughly before entering into big changes."

"The process that has been set in motion is motivated by desires for efficiency in administrative, operational, and service tasks. It is for research, development, and training. Here there are goals and intentions, but nothing concrete to hang them on yet."

In doctors' circles there is also doubt about how logical it is to redo the whole National Hospital according to the new model and whether in the end some segments will not benefit from the changes.

"It is not wrong to start with the Heart Center," Hans Karle said. "But I would have been hesitant to carry out the change completely before getting a lot of experience and having thoroughly analyzed whether one can both rationalize and at the same time assure the quality of training and research."

**German Scandal Sparks Examination of Blood Supply***94WE0074B Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 5 Nov 93 p 2*

[Article by Marianne Harbo: "Danish Blood Preparations Checked"]

[Text] Donor blood: Even if there is no risk for Danish patients, the authorities are taking very seriously the matter of German blood that has not been HIV tested.

Danes must feel completely safe in the medicine they receive.

Therefore the Danish authorities will go through the country's hospitals and apothecaries with a fine-tooth comb looking for preparations of blood from the German blood bank UB Plasma Laboratory that have not been HIV tested.

Even if the preparations are in no case dangerous.

**Every Detail**

"We intend to show that we have examined every detail. Therefore we are checking to see whether any medical firms represented in Denmark can have bought blood

products that have not been tested for the HIV virus," Eva Sandberg, a section head in the Health Department, said.

"If there is, we will call the preparations back. We do not want to have any of that rubbish on the Danish market."

Sandberg stressed that as things stand now only blood that has been tested is used in Denmark. All imported blood is cleaned and heat treated—virus inactivated, as it is called—for example, 10 hours at 60 degrees centigrade.

"The HIV virus is not very robust, so that a completely unimaginable concentration of the virus would be necessary for there to be a risk of any of it surviving," Sandberg said.

The Health Department has written to producers and importers of blood products in Denmark and asked them to answer as soon as possible whether they have used any of the "risky" deliverers.

Imported blood products are, for example, albumin, which is used for patients who have lost a great amount of blood, gamma globulin, which among other things is used to prevent liver infections, as well as factor products for bleeders.

#### Letter From Novo

Among the large producers of blood preparations is Novo-Nordisk in Gentofte, which has already sent a letter of reply. Communications Chief Mike Rulis answers with a flat denial.

The largest of the rest of the producers is SerumInstitutet, and then come in random order Kabi Pharmacia, Beringvaerket, Sanders, and Immuno.

At SerumInstitutet only Director Leif Pallesen can reply. He could not be found this evening.

#### How Danish Blood Is Tested

During the past eight years, all Danish blood has been screened, that is, tested for the AIDS virus and Hepatitis C and D. This is the way Danish blood is made safe:

1. Blood donors must be healthy and sound. They must not be taking medicine (birth control pills, headache pills, etc., are accepted). Homosexuals and drug addicts are rejected. After stays in areas of risk such as, for example, Africa, there is a period of quarantine.
2. All blood is tested for the AIDS virus (HIV), Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C.
3. Blood for blood transfusions cannot tolerate heat treatment and is used directly, but is not mixed. Blood plasma for blood products (bleeder medicine, etc.) is mixed and treated thermally.

#### Salmonella in Poultry Stock Again on Rise

94WE0074C Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 5 Nov 93 p III 1

[Unattributed article: "New Salmonella Danger"]

[Text] The appearance of salmonella in slaughtered chickens has been rising lately, according to the Veterinary Directorate. Investigations show that in October there were salmonella problems in about 30 percent of the chicken stock. This is a rise from last year, in which there was only salmonella in about 10 percent of the chickens.

The agricultural minister has called the situation unsatisfactory. It is far from the goal of bringing salmonella down to under 5 percent.

In the light of the discouraging results, the plan will be reviewed by the authorities in cooperation with the poultry branch with the intention of tightening things up.

#### More Will Be Vaccinated

Thousand of small children have been vaccinated against meningitis since the offer of free vaccinations was made six months ago. Just the first two months after the beginning of the arrangement in May over 27,000 children were vaccinated with the so-called HIB vaccine, according to DET FRI AKTUEL Thursday [4 November], the vaccine protects against a type of life-threatening meningitis.

#### Program To Combat Salmonella Debated

94WE0076C Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 30 Oct 93 p III 2

[Unattributed article: "Westh Upholds Salmonella Action Plan"—first paragraph is BERLINGSKE TIDENDE introduction]

[Text] Farmers and the Agriculture Ministry are still far apart on the salmonella problem.

At a meeting with the Danish Slaughterhouse Association on Friday [29 October] Agriculture Minister Bjorn Westh (Social Democrat) maintained that for the sake of consumers he will not relax the action plan to combat salmonella bacteria in pig herds and in processed products from slaughterhouses.

On the other hand the minister regards the slaughterhouse group's fear that up to one-fifth of the 1,500 medium-sized pig herds will come under public supervision by Christmas as greatly exaggerated.

Only five out of the 50 medium-sized herds in which analysis has been completed so far have such a high incidence of salmonella that they have come under supervision. This corresponds to 10 percent and not the 20 percent the swine sector fears might be the result of the action plan.

"If the tendency holds expenses for the sector will be less than 150 million kroner," said the minister, referring to the slaughterhouse association's own estimate that the cost would be more than twice that amount.

After the meeting the chairman of the Danish Slaughterhouse Association, Bent Sloth, said he was glad that there is apparently less of a problem in herds than they had feared. But he stuck to his criticism of the action plan and expressed disappointment that the swine sector did not meet with the necessary sympathy from Westh.

But the group did get a number of concrete concessions from the meeting. The minister said among other things that he is prepared to discuss conditions for producers of small pigs, who have had problems with the plan, that it may be possible to reduce testing costs and that the authorities can help slaughterhouses find the most efficient methods of slaughtering salmonella-infected pigs.

"I well understand that with swine prices at the current low level farmers find it almost unbearable to have this additional problem. But it is no use complaining, we must try to get through it," the minister said.

#### **Salmonella Incidence in Pork Higher Than in Sweden**

94WE0076B Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 28 Oct 93 Sec III p 3

[Ritzaus Bureau report: "Salmonella Thriving"]

[Text] There is far more salmonella in Danish processed pork products than in comparable Swedish products.

This can be seen from a comparison between the Agriculture Ministry's analysis of salmonella in processed products from slaughterhouses and the Danish Slaughterhouse Associations' own study of salmonella in Swedish pork.

The Nordic Council has set a limit of 5 percent on the content of salmonella in samples from slaughterhouses. At the annual meeting of the National Committee on Swine yesterday the chairman of the Danish Slaughterhouse Association, Bent Sloth, revealed that the Danish slaughterhouse average is 2.7 percent.

On Friday the slaughterhouse group will meet with Agriculture Minister Bjorn Westh (Social Democrat) to discuss an action plan to combat salmonella.

#### **Hepatitis Spreading Among Esbjerg Drug Users**

94WE0076D Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 30 Oct 93 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Epidemic"]

[Text] An epidemic of infectious hepatitis has spread among drug addicts in Esbjerg because they share needles.

#### **Parvo Virus Confirmed in Islands**

94WE0076E Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 29 Sep 93 p 11

[Unattributed report: "Canine Virus on the Way"]

[Text] The feared parvo virus has been found among dogs on Lolland and Falster. The extremely contagious virus affects dogs' gastric systems, and most non-vaccinated dogs that come down with the disease die.

#### **Physician Warns of Measles Epidemic**

94WE0076F Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 12 Oct 93 p 1

[Article by Annette Hagerup: "Doctor Predicts Danish Measles Epidemic"—first paragraph is BERLINGSKE TIDENDE introduction]

[Text] Parents' fear of having their children vaccinated against measles, mumps, and rubella could result in a measles epidemic with the risk of serious complications.

The Serum Institute fears that we will have a new measles epidemic within the next few years.

The fear is due to the fact that requests for the MFR [measles, mumps, and rubella] vaccination dropped 10 percent this year. (This vaccine protects against measles, mumps, and German measles, ed.)

"The public's support of MFR vaccinations is too low to enable us to stave off a measles epidemic in the long run," said Tove Ronne, chief physician at the State Serum Institute.

"At present measles is generally not seen in Denmark. But at some point the disease will be introduced into the country again. And as by now quite a few children are not vaccinated against measles there will be fertile ground for an epidemic. A measles epidemic can occur only if there are enough unvaccinated children in a society who can infect each other and thus keep the epidemic going.

"Today we have a large group of somewhat older children who have not been vaccinated. In the event of an epidemic these children run a bigger risk than they did before because the risk of complications increases with age," Ronne said."

Vaccinations for children is a service that is offered to parents. There is no charge and they are not compulsory.

"The first MFR vaccination is given when a child is 15 months old. So theoretically babies below that age risk being infected with measles if they are in day care centers with somewhat older unvaccinated children," Ronne said.

Inflammation of the brain is one of the serious complications of measles.



In Africa the disease is responsible for 5 percent of deaths among children.

#### **AIDS Carrier Convicted for Single Exposure Incident**

94WE0076G Copenhagen *BERLINGSKE TIDENDE* in Danish 1 Oct 93 p 6

[Ritzaus Bureau report: "Sentenced for HIV Sex"]

[Text] A 34-year-old woman who is infected with HIV was sentenced to three months in jail yesterday in magistrate's court in Grenaa for having exposed a 32-year-old man to the risk of HIV infection by having intercourse without a condom. The case is fundamental as it is the first time in this country that an HIV-infected person has been sentenced for endangering someone through just one sexual episode without a condom. In August, Eastern Superior Court upheld a sentence handed down in Copenhagen Municipal Court in which a 35-year-old HIV-infected Haitian was sentenced to a year and a half in jail for having unprotected intercourse with 23 different women. In both convictions the HIV-infected person was sentenced for failing to disclose their HIV status and thus violating Paragraph 252 of the Penal Code concerning endangering the lives and health of others through gross wantonness or inconsiderateness.

In determining the penalty in the three-month jail sentence, consideration was given to the woman's situation and the fact that the 32-year-old had not been infected with HIV.

The woman immediately appealed the sentence to superior court.

#### **Thirty New HIV Cases Every Month**

94WE0076H Copenhagen *BERLINGSKE TIDENDE* in Danish 12 Oct 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Sex on Trips Risky"]

[Text] Each month 30 Danes find out that they are infected with HIV. Two of them are infected abroad, according to figures from the State Serum Institute. Since 1990, at least 91 Danes have learned that they had been infected with HIV, which causes AIDS, in another country.

#### **Faeroe Islands Report Having 13 Confirmed HIV Carriers**

94WE0076I Copenhagen *BERLINGSKE TIDENDE* in Danish 29 Oct 93 p 11

[Unattributed report: "Faeroes See New HIV Cases Again"]

[Text] After two years with no new HIV cases, three new cases of HIV infection have been diagnosed in the Faeroes so far this year. According to the latest figures from the district doctor in the Faeroes, a total of 13 HIV-infected people have now been registered in the Faeroes, including two women. So far four of the infected people have developed AIDS. Two have died from the disease.

#### **Prosecutor: No Charges in HIV-Infected Blood Case**

94WE0076J Copenhagen *BERLINGSKE TIDENDE* in Danish 19 Oct 93 p 5

[Ritzaus Bureau report: "No Charges in Infection Case"—first paragraph is *BERLINGSKE TIDENDE* introduction]

[Text] The public prosecutor has decided that there is no evidence to support bringing charges in the case in which 89 hemophiliacs were infected with HIV-tainted blood.

Copenhagen Public Prosecutor Hanne Bech Hansen has decided not to charge former Interior Minister Britta Schall Holberg, former chief medical officer and chief of the Public Health Administration Soren K. Sorensen, and Public Health Administration department chief Jens Overo in the case of HIV-tainted hemophiliac medication.

The public prosecutor found no evidence for bringing charges and this seems to exhaust the possibilities for the Danish Hemophiliac Society to hold anyone personally liable for the fact that 89 hemophiliacs were infected with HIV-tainted blood products in the mid-1980's.

The Hemophiliac Society called the public prosecutor's decision "sad, unfortunate, and incomprehensible."

The society had reported the three for quackery, negligent manslaughter, and causing considerable damage to body and health.

"In order to prove that anyone is criminally liable it must be possible to establish that the hemophiliacs referred to in the report were given the infected blood after the three people named there became aware of the risk.

"There is no evidence in the case to establish this," the public prosecutor wrote the hemophiliac society in her decision.

"This decision is sad in many ways. Partly because we will probably never be able to assign personal responsibility and partly because in the future these three people



will now be able to state that they had no responsibility. This will evoke strong feelings among hemophiliacs," said the chairman of the Danish Hemophilic Society, Terkel Andersen.

In her reasons for the rejection Hansen referred among other things to a judicial review of the case prepared by superior court judge Niels Johan Pedersen. But according to the hemophilic society the review deals solely with the period after 1 January 1986, while the society's citation concerned the time before that.

"The review is exclusively descriptive as far as the period before 1 January 1986 is concerned—it was not part of the judge's commission to express an opinion about the course of events prior to that date," Andersen said.

#### **Public Health Service Ready New AIDS Information Campaign**

94WE0076K Copenhagen *BERLINGSKE TIDENDE* in Danish 24 Oct 93 p 8

[Article by Keld Nissen: "AIDS Information Scrutinized"—first paragraph is *BERLINGSKE TIDENDE* introduction]

[Text] Information about AIDS has come to a halt in Frederiksborg County, according to a former project staff member. The County Council Association will look into the situation in the other Danish counties. The Public Health Administration is preparing a new nationwide AIDS campaign.

The County Council Association will now look into whether counties are providing enough information about AIDS. This action is being taken following criticism of inadequate information efforts in Frederiksborg County.

After the short-term so-called CEN/LOK [central/local] campaign in the Danish counties ended, the work of informing the public about AIDS was supposed to be continued locally in an effort to change people's attitudes and sexual behavior in the long term.

#### **No Overview**

Mayor Knud Andersen (Liberal) of Bornholm County, chairman of the County Council Association's hospital and health committee, has no overview of whether the long-term AIDS information work is functioning in the counties.

"But I intend to look into how the campaign went and also suggest new measures from the central office if they are needed," he said.

The Public Health Administration is preparing a new campaign on HIV and AIDS for 1994.

After the Copenhagen area and Arhus County, Frederiksborg County is the area of the country that has the most registered patients with full-blown AIDS, currently 62.

#### **Lack of Initiatives**

Despite this the county does not provide people with enough information about the disease, criticized Claus Krygell, who was coordinator of the county's CEN/LOK campaign from 1991 to 1992.

"The short-term goals—to increase people's knowledge about the disease—was achieved to a large extent, but the county has had little to offer since the summer of 1992," Krygell said.

The chairman of the county's AIDS committee, medical officer Jens Steensberg, admits that information activity has declined somewhat. This is due to changes in the county's administration where AIDS information was not given top priority.

"But if people from outside provide ideas for activities, funds are available for them," he said.

Tove Tougaard, office manager of the county social and health administration, expects activity to pick up in the fall and winter. The county is planning to distribute information and set up condom dispensers at senior high schools and vocational schools and is also planning activities for World AIDS Day, 1 December.

In the first half of 1993 around 8,000 condoms were distributed in connection with information activity.

Bjorn Knudsen of the Public Health Administration's AIDS office is of the opinion that the level of county activity differs widely.

"But it is natural to see a drop in activity after a campaign," he said.

## **GREECE**

#### **Table Shows Distribution of AIDS Cases in Greece**

NC3011180093 Athens *ELEVTHEROTIPIA* (Health Supplement) in Greek 30 Nov 93 p 36

[Text]

Distribution of AIDS Cases in Greece (1993)

Category of Transmission	Men		Women		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1. Homosexual/bisexual men	425	57.7	—	—	425	51.5
2. Drug users	27	3.7	9	10.1	36	4.4
3. Homosexual/bisexual drug users	5	0.7	0	0.0	5	0.6
4. Persons transfused with large quantities of blood products	53	7.2	0	0.0	53	6.4
5. Persons who received blood transfusions	27	3.7	18	20.2	45	5.5
6. Heterosexuals	113	15.4	44	49.5	157	19.0
7. Undetermined	86	11.6	18	20.2	104	12.6
Total	736	100.0	89	100.0	825	100.0

## IRELAND

### Parents Warned of Increase in Measles

94WE0093A Dublin IRISH INDEPENDENT in English 28 Oct 93 p 3

[Article by Eilish O'Regan, Health Correspondent]

[Text] The incidence of measles is continuing to rise in some areas of the country despite an alert to parents to have their children vaccinated after an epidemic in Dublin earlier this year.

However, the overall number of cases reported to the Department of Health has fallen since the start of the summer.

So far this year, there have been 3,493 cases of measles reported countrywide compared to just 179 last year.

A major alert about the potentially serious disease was issued as the school year began last September and this triggered an increase in the number of parents having their children vaccinated.

Feedback from a number of health boards suggests supplies of the vaccine were in much greater demand than usual, but the fear is there will be a fall-off once the attention abates.

The North Western Health Board confirmed yesterday the number of cases reported there in the last couple of weeks had increased.

"It is not an epidemic but there has been a definite rise in the level of cases of the disease," a spokesman said.

He said more than 100 cases were reported in the last four weeks in the Inishowen, Letterkenny and Fanad areas.

The spokesman again appealed to parents to have children over the age of 15 months vaccinated. They should also look out for symptoms of measles in their children and keep them at home from school because it was so infectious.

The vaccination rate in the North Western Health Board area is relatively high and is around 95pc in some regions.

### President Concerned Over AIDS, Statistics Given

94WE0094A Dublin IRISH INDEPENDENT in English 27 Oct 93 p 4

[Text] President Robinson yesterday called for more straight talking about AIDS to ensure that young people know how to protect themselves against it.

She expressed concern that young people from the West of Ireland who are thinking of emigrating do not have adequate information about the disease.

Latest figures show that AIDS has claimed the lives of 162 Irish people, while more than 1,400 have tested HIV-positive.

On a visit to AIDS Health West in Galway, a voluntary organisation of which she is a patron, President Robinson said too many young people were leaving Mayo, Galway, Donegal and Sligo "at risk of their lives" because of ignorance.

## SWEDEN

### Twar Bacteria Found in Military Unit

94WE0033B Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 8 Aug 93 p 7

[Unattributed article: "Twar Bacteria Common in Gavle"]

[Text] Gavle (TT)—Twar [as published] bacteria are found much more frequently among recruits in the I-14 [unit] in Gavle, ARBETARBLADET reports.

Doctors Hakan Gnarpe and Stefan Sterner in Gavle have studied the occurrence of twar bacteria, which was formerly linked to the odd deaths among those involved in cross-country orienteering among the recruits.

In 1990, 11 percent of the 506 recruits who were studied had antitwar antibodies in their bodies. This year antibodies were found in as many as half of those 394 who were studied. In 1991 and 1992 no comparable studies were done, which is why a clear picture of how the increase is occurring cannot be drawn.

Gnarpe said that it is not a question of an epidemic within the I-14 unit alone.

Twar can lead to a number of different infections from head colds to lung inflammation and heart muscle inflammation. Twar bacteria have proven to be more common in the Gavle area and in Dalarna than elsewhere.

#### Physicians To Test New AIDS Drug

94WE0081A Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 16 Oct 93 p 13

[Text] In a few months, Swedish physicians will start testing a new drug against AIDS. The drug is called DNCB, and has been used for decades against warts.

"People in San Francisco infected with the HIV virus have used DNCB on their own for years without any formal approval from the health care system," said Linda Morfeldt-Mansson, a physician at Danderyd Hospital, who specializes in infectious diseases, and who is a member of the network of Swedish HIV physicians.

"Until now, the drug has only been the subject of a single study, which was conducted in the United States. This study, however, was based on such a narrow base that we hardly can draw any conclusions from it," she noted.

The Swedish study is supposed to include 200 HIV patients from all over Sweden.

"We will also include a number of patients who are seriously ill and who are not expected to survive for very long with the use of normal treatment methods. They may also test DNCB if they so choose. It is for their sake that we are eager to start the treatment as soon as possible," said Linda Morfeldt-Mansson.

#### UNITED KINGDOM

##### Worst Flu Epidemic Since 1989 Expected

94WE0091A London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 6 Nov 93 p 6

[Article by David Millward and Peter Pallot: "Britain Faces Flu Epidemic Say Doctors"]

[Text] Britain is facing its worst flu epidemic since 1989, the Royal College of General Practitioners said yesterday.

Dr Douglas Fleming, director of the College's monitoring unit, said 127 cases per 100,000 population had been reported this week, three times the normal rate.

However, the Government is seeking to play down fears of an epidemic and, with the A Beijing 92 flu strain sweeping southwards from Scotland, Dr Kenneth Calman, Chief Medical Officer, said vaccine would be available for all who need it.

The College's figures, based on findings at 92 "spotter practices" cross the country, suggest there were 65,000 new cases of flu reported this week.

"I don't like to use the word epidemic because it can frighten people," Dr Fleming said. "Although we are not in as bad a situation as 1989, I would say that we have an epidemic."

His figures show that flu reports have more than doubled in the Midlands and South in the past week and increased by more than 50 per cent in the North.

The Duchess of Kent was among the flu's latest victims yesterday, cancelling a prize-giving engagement in Clerkenwell, London. In Yeovil, a 35-bed orthopaedic ward at the district hospital had to be closed this week after patients and staff were struck down by the illness.

In Hampshire an infection control team was called in to the Botley Ward of Knowle hospital, where psychiatric patients were taken ill.

In 1989, when the infection rate reached 580 per 100,000, more than half a million cases were recorded in a week and between 20,000 and 25,000 died.

A spokesman for the Public Health Laboratory Service in Colindale, North London, said the latest version of Beijing flu, which was first identified last year, was not particularly severe, though it was classified as an "A"—or more virulent—strain.

The current strain is seen as a minor variation of previous versions. The latest vaccine is also considered capable of dealing with two other types of flu: A Singapore and B Panama.

General practitioners are expected to vaccinate those whose lives could be "at risk" from flu, though they do not receive a special payment. These include elderly people, diabetics, those with heart, kidney or lung disease and those whose immune systems are weak.

The Department of Health said that there is not a shortage of vaccine. A spokesman said that 4.3 million doses were available already, only 400,000 fewer than last year.

Another 460,000 doses are expected to be ready for distribution shortly, the spokesman added.

Dr Calman has also recommended that vaccine should be provided for residents of nursing homes, old people's homes and other long-stay facilities where flu can spread rapidly.

He said: "It is not possible accurately to predict the impact of influenza at this time of the year, but it would be reasonable to expect rates of illness to increase over the next few weeks."

The Department of Health is expected to buy almost five million vaccine doses over the coming weeks from three suppliers.

The main symptoms of the new strain are the usual flu symptoms: fever, headache, aching limbs, coughing, sneezing and a runny nose.

### **German Blood Products Impounded After AIDS Scare**

94WE0090A London *THE DAILY TELEGRAPH* in English 6 Nov 93 p 1

[Article by Robin Gedye in Bonn and Peter Pallot: "British Alert Over AIDS Scandal"]

[Text] Blood products made by a German firm at the centre of an Aids scare in Germany are being withdrawn by the Department of Health in London and several other countries took steps yesterday to impound the products.

The department announced that 126,000 units of blood products manufactured by UB Plasma, of Koblenz, had been bought by the National Health Service.

Last year Britain imported 120,000 doses of a product to boost immunity. Since 1989 the NHS has bought 6,000 doses of albumin, also made by UB Plasma, to treat severe blood loss. "Because of the length of time, it must be assumed that some of these batches have been used," a department spokesman said last night.

The other countries which have decided to withdraw suspect blood products are France, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, the Czech Republic and Greece. At the same time the Greek health ministry said it would take legal action against the German exporters of possibly untested plasma.

It is feared that suspect products may also have reached the Middle East.

Remaining stocks in Britain are being urgently recalled by Immono, an Austrian company which bought the consignment from Germany and exported it here, said

the department spokesman. "However, we are absolutely sure that these stocks were batch-tested by the National Institute for Biological Standards, Testing and Control and there was no trace of HIV," he said.

The recall was "purely precautionary and is to ensure total patient safety".

Authorities are seeking to establish how many doses of the immunity booster Gammabulin have been used. People with impaired immune systems or those travelling abroad and at risk of hepatitis would have been among those intramuscularly injected. The other product—Human Albumin Solution, 4.5 per cent—would be used in any situation in which blood was lost in quantity, such as accidents, surgery or a complicated birth. The spokesman said: "There is no evidence that HIV has been transmitted by these two products. We are self-sufficient in blood and plasma and we do import blood products which are licensed by the Medicines Control Agency."

Britain does not import blood—only blood products. Since 1985, when the risks of spreading HIV were realized, all blood factors have been heat-treated.

Mr David Blunkett, Shadow Health Secretary, urged the Government to make a clear statement to allay fears.

Dr Harold Gunson, director of the National Blood Authority, said: "British patients can be reassured that this blood in England and Scotland is the safest that one can have in the world.

"We have been fully testing all our blood since 1985 for HIV."

But he added: "We do import some final purified plasma products." He did not know whether any had come from Germany.

British military authorities in Germany urged the small number of people treated in German hospitals in emergencies in the past 10 years to have themselves tested if they were worried. Pentagon officials issued similar instructions to US Servicemen in Germany.

In Germany, where blood donations are paid for and where a number of people connected with UB Plasma have been arrested, there is evidence that the health ministry is uncertain of the extent of the spread of suspect products.

When the scandal broke a month ago, the semi-autonomous Federal Health Agency was dissolved for failing to pursue evidence that UB Plasma had flooded the market with possibly untested blood products. Then on Thursday it was alleged that the firm had knowingly released "slightly infected" blood on to the market.



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